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LD1708122388 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq intends to launch "a series of military operations" before the cease-fire is implemented, according to a letter from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar to the UN Security Council cited by IRNA. Velayati asked the Security Council to take "serious measures" to "save" the cease-fire and said Iran should be informed so it can "decide the method of its response," IRNA disclosed.

Iraq released "officially documented statistics" on its diplomatic efforts to counter Iranian armed aggression before 1980, which indicate that "Iran started" the "consequent war," according to INA.

Israel: Occupied Territories

The area around the Qezi'ot detention camp was declared a "closed military area" after two inmates of the were killed when IDF forces opened fire during a riot, Jerusalem radio and IDF radio reported. A man died after inhaling tear gas used by the IDF to disperse a demonstration at the Al-Shati' refugee camp, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

IDF soldiers beat "dozens" of Gaza residents after they violated the curfew and staged disturbances, Jerusalem television noted.

The death of a security prisoner found hanging in his solitary cell in Jerusalem's Russian Compound was a suicide, according to police sources cited by Jerusalem radio. A prisoner who was found dead at the Al-Zahiriyah prison 14 August also committed suicide, an army spokesman said.

Security forces exposed several "terrorist squads" in the Hebron hills and around Bethlehem, IDF radio announced. They are "suspected" of belonging to two PLO factions and the Islamic Jihad organization, the radio disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

Talks between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and a Palestinian delegation centered on solving the Palestinian problem via an internationally acceptable political program, Cairo radio and MENA disclosed.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi discussed a possible meeting in Tripoli of Palestinian representatives before the next PNC meeting in Algiers, according to Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio.

Lebanon

The Chamber of Deputies will not be able to elect a president 18 August because a majority of its members will not be present, according to an "informed source" cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The source called the deputies' boycott of the election a "method of democratic pressure" to prevent the election of a "confrontational president."

Former President Sulayman Franjiyah announced his candidacy, saying "fundamental political reforms" are an "inevitable national need," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Lebanese Forces leader Samir Ja'ja' said Franjiyah's election would constitute a "partition" that would impart legitimacy on the Syrian presence in the country, Voice of Lebanon disclosed.

Ja'ja' said the Lebanese Forces would not use force to prevent Franjiyah's election but would use "political and democratic means" to prevent a quorum in the Chamber of Deputies.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt expressed his support for Franjiyah and announced that the PSP candidate would withdraw from the race, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio declared.

Iraq-Jordan

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn presented Jordan's King Husayn with a gift of weapons captured in the Iran-Iraq conflict, Amman television announced. The gift, given "out of appreciation" for Jordan's support, comprised 90 Chieftain tanks, 60 M-47 tanks, 19 Scorpion armored vehicles, and 35 M-113 personnel carriers, Amman television disclosed.

Western Sahara

Mahfoud Ali Beiba was named prime minister by the Polisario Front Executive Committee in a communique announcing a new government, which was streamlined from 13 to 8 members, according to Algiers radio. Beiba also holds the justice and interior minister posts, the radio said. Former Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine Ahmed was named health minister and Mohamed Salem Ould Salek was named foreign minister, the radio added.

Sudan

An official disputed "baseless fears" that relief supplies are not getting to flood victims, SUNA reported. Aid is being "directly distributed to people" and no materials are being stored, the official added. However, distribution efforts are "proceeding slowly" because of a scarcity of transportation, according to an official in the northern region cited by SUNA.

To coordinate the relief effort, the State Council formed the Higher National Committee for General Mobilization, which will supervise government and international aid efforts, SUNA announced. Water levels in Khartoum are expected to continue rising, an Irrigation and Water Ministry official told SUNA.

Afghanistan

The 50,000 remaining Soviet troops are "getting ready to leave" and could do so "before the date scheduled" if fighting stops, according to a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by TASS.

Gennadiy Gerasimov denied "U.S. calculations" that Soviet troops planted "10-30 million" mines as they left the country, Moscow television reported. All minefields were cleared or left to the Afghan Armed Forces "in the appropriate manner," Gerasimov said.

Pakistan handed over the pilot of a Soviet SU-25 aircraft downed over Pakistani territory 4 August to the USSR charge in Islamabad as a "token of goodwill," according to Islamabad radio.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Abdallah Hurani Comments on Amman Talks

NC1508065388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 14 Aug (MENA)—'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Palestinian delegation now visiting Jordan, told reproters here this evening there will be no change in the status of Palestinian citizens holding "family reunion" cards or those carrying red or green cards [not further specified]. He added it had been agreed with the Jordanians to treat the Palestinian expatriates working outside the occupied territories, whether in Arab or foreign countries, as Jordanian citizens.

It has also been agreed to continue issuing Jordanian passports to Palestinian citizens living in the West Bank without adding any marks to these passports that would differentiate them from ordinary Jordanian passports. The only difference in these passports would be their length of validity, he added, noting that the issuance of these passports will be separate from the question of nationality.

Accordingly, he went on to say, the Palestinians will be eligible for Jordanian passports, but this does not mean they have Jordanian nationality. He stressed that the possibility of issuing travel documents instead of passports is out of the question.

Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Hurani said they touched on three main issues. The first was the Jordanian decision to disengage the ties between the two banks of the Jordan River. In this respect, he added, it was agreed not to let these measures have a negative impact on the lives of the citizens. It was also agreed to keep the bridges across the Jordan River open to citizens, to continue exports of food and agricultural products via the bridges, to continue with Jordan's supervision over school examinations, to continue admitting West Bank students to Jordanian universities, and to continue issuing certificates of origin for West Bank products.

Hurani added that marriage and divorce documents will be certified in Jordan and that movable or immovable property held in the East Bank by persons originally from the West Bank will not be touched.

The second issue, he said, involved some of the political steps currently being studied by the PLO, including the declaration of a state, a government-in-exile, or a provisional government. We have asked the advice of our Jordanian brothers, who assured us they would support any step or decision made by the PLO in this respect after consulting friends and brothers and after ascertaining that such step or decision could garner international support, he added.

Hurani noted that the Palestinian side to the talks had reiterated its commitment to the establishment of a confederacy between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan in deference to the distinguished relations between the two peoples and in view of the 40-year-long intermingling process between the two peoples in various fields. The possible establishment of such a confederacy will be raised with the Jordanian side in the future. Hurani reported that the third issue in these talks dealt with the status of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin. He said the Jordanians made clear that these citizens are Jordanian citizens who enjoy full citizenship rights and have full citizenship responsibilities. They also noted this does not prejudice their right to return to their homeland of Palestine or their right to self-determination like the rest of the Palestinian people, he said.

Hurani pointed out the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations stressed they reject the settlement of Palestinians on territory other than Palestine or the creation of an alternative homeland for them. He said the Jordanian side affirmed it will submit a program of support to the PLO and support its independence and whatever serves the soleness of its representation of the Palestinian people.

Answering a question on whether the Jordanian decision to sever the legal relationship between the two banks is constitutional, Hurani said: We have understood it is a termination of the 1950 declaration of union between the two banks.

He added the two sides agreed that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories will not be abolished and will continue to function.

On another issue, a responsible Palestinian source told a MENA correspondent the PLO believes that all UN resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue are internationally legitimate and this does not refer merely to Resolution 242, which is only one of the UN resolutions on this issue. The source added the PLO holds that Resolution 181, issued in 1947, is internationally legitimate. It is the only UN resolution which recognizes the legitimacy of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The source added PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to proclaim an independent Palestinian state during the visit he will make to the European Parliament in mid-September. 'Arafat is expected to deliver a speech to the Parliament declaring the establishment of such a state. Hurani noted the PNC will discuss this issue at its next meeting.

Palestinian Statement Issued on Amman Talks

JN1508083588 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 88 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman— AL-RA'Y— A spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, the PLO delegation to the Palestinian-Jordanian talks, has made the following statement at the conclusion of these talks:

A Palestinian delegation from the PLO led by Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Pan-Arab Relations Department of the Executive Committee, and comprising 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members, and Brother Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to the brother chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, paid a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 11 to 14 August 1988 to hold talks and consultations with the Jordanian Government on the results of the Jordanian decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the West Bank.

During the visit, the Palestinian delegation met with His Majesty King Husayn and held two meetings with the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. During the talks, the Jordanian side clarified the aims and dimensions of the Jordanian decision. The Palestinian side understood from the clarification that the objective of this decision is to serve the Palestinian cause, highlight the national identity of the Palestinian people, and underline the PLO's role and full responsibility toward the Palestinian cause and the occupied Palestinian territory in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides have agreed Jordan will continue to provide facilities and take measures in the service of the interests and life of the sons of our people in the occupied territory. The Jordanian side also affirmed that Jordan will continue its commitment to support the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle to reach their national objectives. The Jordanian side also affirmed its support for the PLO's trend toward establishing an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil.

The Jordanian side pointed out that Jordan's decision to consider the citizens of Palestinian origin as Jordanian citizens who have the complete rights and duties of citizenship does not encroach on their legitimate rights in Palestine, once an independent Palestinian state is established, including their right to repatriation and to self-determination just like their Palestinian brothers wherever they are.

The Palestinian side affirmed its full concern for Jordan's stability, sovereignty, and domestic national unity because this is considered a support for the Palestinian cause.

Based on the distinguished fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, the Palestinian side affirmed the PLO's adherence to the PNC resolutions on establishing a confederation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the independent Palestinian state.

The two sides agreed to continue consultations to reinforce confidence and underline fraternal ties to serve the two fraternal people's interests and to develop their present and future relations.

The Palestinian side thanked His Majesty King Husayn for receiving them, for his concern, and for his majesty's stands on Palestinian and Arab issues. The Palestinian side also thanked the Jordanian Government for the hospitality and for the fraternal and constructive spirit which prevailed in the talks.

Salah Khalaf Statement on 'Direct Talks' Viewed

Condemned by PPSF, PFLP

JN1508140688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Commenting on yesterday's statements by Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, that the PLO is prepared to hold direct talks with Israel and embark on mutual recognition, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] condemned the statements of both Abu Iyad and Bassam Abu Sharif, which called for recognizing the Israeli enemy.

The PPSF's official spokesman said these statements constitute a violation of the unanimously-approved Palestinian resolutions, severely harm the national cause and the uprising, and lead to a state of confusion. He added: We condemn these statements and stands and call on all to abide by the unanimously-approved Palestinian resolutions.

In a related development, PFLP leader Dr George Habash said here it concerns the PFLP to stress that any honest reading of the Palestinian National Charter, the PLO's political program, and the PNC resolutions reveals that these do not at all refer to recognition of or direct negotiations with the enemy.

Dr Habash added the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which is an objective and militant demand of all the Palestinians, does not and should not mean recognition of the enemy entity. According to Dr Habash, acceptance of the Jordanian challenge does not mean making free concessions to Israel, to which there should be no concessions or retreat.

Habash said: The PFLP, out of its desire to maintain national unity, calls on all in the Palestinian arena to abide by the common political denominators and adhere to the uprising's call for the continuation struggle to attain freedom and independence. [passage omitted]

Al-Quds Criticizes Statement

JN1508180688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Comment by the political editor: "The Black Sunday"]

[Text] We were right in our conjecture yesterday when we wrote our political editor's comment under the headline "Legitimate Apprehensions." We warned against the coming steps that would reveal what has not yet been revealed. Our conjecture and expectation came true. We hoped we would be wrong and matters would develop correctly. Our conjecture and expectation came true and events confirmed all this. What radio stations reported on Sunday, 14 August 1988, was as follows:

1. The Arabic section of London radio broadcast the following statement by Salah Khalaf: The PLO is prepared to discuss the borders of an independent Palestinian state with Israel and the United States. He added the PLO is prepared to discuss the establishment of such a state at an international peace conference to be attended by the United States and Israel.

2. Radio Monte Carlo cited a statement by Salah Khalaf to a French weekly, also on Sunday, 14 August 1988. In it he said: The PLO intends to establish a provisional government, not a government-in-exile, following the disengagement of legal and administrative links between Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

Salah Khalaf stressed, according to Radio Monte Carlo on Sunday, 14 August 1988, that this provisional government's political program will be completely different from the National Charter according to which the PLO is currently functioning.

Salah Khalaf added in the same statement he is prepared to begin dialogue with Israel for the sake of establishing peace through the creation of a Palestinian state and the demarcation of its final borders and through mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine.

3. Bassam Abu Sharif also stated on Sunday, 14 August 1988, over Radio Monte Carlo that the PLO is prepared to exchange peace with Israel for the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories. He added the PLO is struggling only to establish an independent state in the West bank and Gaza Strip and not to destroy Israel. Commenting on this, Radio Monte Carlo said: It will be recalled that th is is the second time Yasir 'Arafat's adviser has proposed direct talks with Israel.

These are the black Sunday statements, which we cited as they are even with their expressions, which we do not usually use. These are some samples of what we feared and hoped would not happen. They are a relinquishment by a Palestinian party on behalf of some Arab regimes, a preparation for some regimes' march along the Camp David road, and a support for Husni Mubarak's policy. They are a direct recognition of the Zionist enemy. They are a recognition of the Zionist enemy taking the form of urgency and carrying the formula of repetition.

They are an explicit, direct, urgent, and repeated recognition preceding the convocation of the so-called emergency Algiers [Palestine National] Council, aimed at placing recognition of the Zionist enemy as an inevitable fait accompli before the conferees. What remains is endorsement and not recognition, because the decision and recognition were announced on black Sunday by both Salah Khalaf and Bassam Abu Sharif.

What is regrettable, ridiculous, and lamentable is the rashness of those who were supposed to be patient and who until recently were calling for adherence to national Palestinian rights. What is regrettable, ridiculous, and lamentable is that 1 week ago they hastened to pave the way for their statements by welcoming a government-in-exile although some time ago they opposed such an idea.

How many doors of relinquishment will this black Sunday open? This is a question we pose to those carrying rifles, stones, and the cross of the cause under difficult circumstances. God is with us and victory is near. Together on the path of liberating land and man.

PFLP-GC Decries 'Deviation'

JN1508181288 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Commenting on the statements Salah Khalaf and Bassam Abu Sharif made on recognition of and direct talks with the Zionist enemy, an official PFLP-GC source has stated the following:

The PFLP-GC, which has since the beginning warned against the danger posed by the trend of deviation and its symbols, and which has drawn attention to the seriousness of calls for the establishment of unity or alliance with this deviationist trend on the pretext of reforming it from inside, today emphasizes that the statements of Salah Khalaf and Bassam Abu Sharif have left no room for any doubts regarding the deviation of this trend, its relinquishment of the Palestine question, and its plotting against our people's heroic uprising.

We in the PFLP-GC assert that Salah Khalaf's statements and trend do not represent our people's mammoth revolution in Palestine, which directly replied to these statements by further kindling the uprising in the West bank and Gaza Strip. The PFLP-GC stresses that the allies of the deviationist Palestinian right wing are now demanded to express their stands not through statements but through practical and clear steps. The situation is very critical, and all Palestinian nationalists should respond to the call of the homeland by pooling their energies against the plot which is being concocted by reactionary and imperialist parties with the participation of the deviationist trend.

All nationalists are required to disregard all secondary differences and close up their ranks to face the dangers, continue our people's mammoth revolution, and topple the deviationists' proposals. Claims of concern for alliances that help cover up deviation are no longer acceptable.

By begging for direct talks and recognition of the enemy, Salah Khalaf has clearly revealed the true face and essence of deviation in the Palestinian arena.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Abu Sharif on Algiers PNC Meeting, 'Uprising'

JN1508181888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has said the PNC will hold a meeting in Algiers in the last week of this month to adopt appropriate and effective resolutions to remove the Zionist occupation and declare a Palestinian government.

In a statement to INA, he added the Palestinian people's uprising will escalate until the Zionist occupation is terminated despite the terrorist and savage campaigns launched by the occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens. Bassam Abu Sharif held both the United Nations and the UN Security Council responsible for the continued crazy, repressive campaigns launched by the Zionist gangs against the Palestinian people, because both international bodies failed to adopt measures to end these campaigns and protect the Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif pointed out that the Zionist occupation authorities prevented world journalists and newsmen from entering the Gaza Strip and West Bank in an attempt to conceal the crimes committed on a large scale against the Palestinian people. He said the terrorist, indiscriminate, and crazy Zionist operations against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank are proof that the enemy has lost its nerves and begun to behave in a racist, fascist manner unprecedented in history.

He added the Zionist authorities turned the villages and camps in the Gaza Strip and West Bank into gas furnaces by firing hundreds of poisonous and tear gas bombs. These crimes martyred 7 people and wounded more than 100 others in the past 48 hours.

Bassam Abu Sharif revealed a new ugly crime perpetrated by Zionist troops, who burned three Gaza citizens while they were sleeping in their hut near Tel Aviv. He added this crime coincided with other crimes, such as the storming by heavily armed Zionist troops of the Al-Shati' and Al-Maghazi camps and their indiscriminate shooting of Palestinian citizens.

Says 422 Killed in 'Uprising'

JN1508203488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said the number of the uprising martyrs has reached 422 to date.

Speaking at a news conference here today, Bassam Abu Sharif said 25,000 people were wounded by gunshots and tear and toxic gas, adding 30,000 people have been detained since the beginning of the uprising.

Bassam Abu Sharif condemned the Zionist authorities' measures against the Palestinian citizens and said the occupation authorities have completely isolated the Gaza Strip from the world and cut off communications and drinking water and stormed camps there.

He added the PLO will take all necessary measures to secure the means of livelihood and the continuation of resistance in the occupied territory. He indicated the occupation authorities have begun to ban the Palestinian people's sons or relatives working abroad, including in Europe and America, from transferring money. They also decided not to allow people to bring in more than $1,000, in violation of all international norms and charters as well as the simplest human rights.

PLO Official Calls on European States for Support

NC1508123988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Nabil Sha'th, PNC member and adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has called on European states to live up to their international responsibilities and initiate an effective move in support of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and an independent state.

Dr Sha'th went on to reiterate that the PLO expects that France, Italy, the FRG, and Britain will play a constructive role in support of the declaration of a Palestinian government, be it in exile or inside occupied Palestine. The Palestinian official maintained that the PLO might first proclaim a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, but should this be difficult due to certain obstacles the PLO will announce the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile enjoying historical and constitutional components, which will be based either in Tunisia, Iraq, or Algeria.

Chad

Envoy on Prisoners' Release, Peace Prospects

LD1608144788 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Chadian Ambassador in Paris [Ahmad] Allam-Mi remains cautious on the prospects for peace between his country and Libya. Here he is:

[Begin Allam-Mi recording] There is no agreement between Chad and Libya on an exchange of prisoners. The Libyans acted unilaterally and decided to release all prisoners, including those whom it called Chadian prisoners. In fact a list of approximately 350 people was supplied to us, among whom we recognized only a few prisoners, maybe 20-30. But all the rest seem to us to be people who were maybe made prisoner among the Chadian community living in Libya, maybe even among the African community. We need to check this. They are by no means prisoners of war.

Everyone believes peace will come tomorrow, while all around Chad we are witnessing preparations for war by the Libyans. In the diplomatic field nothing is happening, we are witnessing a deadlock. All this fuss over the prisoners is just window-dressing in fact. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak on Palestinian Issue, Ties With Iran

NC1608151588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has reiterated Egypt's support and backing for the Palestinian issue. The president reaffirmed this stand following the sudden visit he paid today to the Armed Forces Hospital in the Mustafa Kamil Quarter of Alexandria. The president said:

[Begin recording] [Mubarak] The Palestinian issue does not concern only Egypt but the entire Arab world. Following the decision which our brother His Majesty King Husayn announced to his parliament, the Palestinians had to meet with our brothers in Jordan either to reach an understanding or to consult on the next steps. This delegation visited Jordan before arriving in Egypt. While in Jordan, the members of the delegation had talks with His Majesty King Husayn and other officials. We feel that they have come here satisfied with the outcome of their talks in Jordan. Some sort of confidence-building process has started between the two sides. But, at any rate, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is necessary and inevitable.

We in Egypt are helping. We have adopted the Palestinian issue, which we have not and will not abandon. There must be consultations between us and the Palestinians as long as we are supporting the Palestinian issue and are carrying out our work in that regard. Coordination exists between them and us, as well as with King Husayn and with the other Arab brothers because this is primarily an Arab issue. I hope that the PLO's next steps will be calculated ones which will facilitate the process of moving the issue forward and reaching a final solution. Our discussions with the Palestinian delegation today centered on this issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr President, today's papers have reported Iran's intention to restore relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. What is Your Excellency's reaction?

[Mubarak] We will adopt a wait-and-see attitude. We will wait and see what will happen. I am not in a hurry. Let us wait for the outcome of Iran's negotiations with Iraq. I am very happy with the cease-fire and with the agreement to start direct negotiations after its implementation. But, let us wait and see. I do not see any urgency for restoring relations. There is nothing between me and any country. At the same time, I do not want any country interfering in my internal affairs as I do not intervene in the internal affairs of others. It never has happened nor do I have the intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any other state.

Even though those next to us [Libya] sometimes do something, I do not interfere in their internal affairs. This is a principle which we must uphold. The world is moving ahead. There are many ways to reach a solution and many ways to develop relations. There are many ways to do such things without resorting to force or to bright ideas which serve only those who disseminate them. I am not a man in a hurry. I take it easy. I must first absorb an issue and determine what consequences it will have for our citizens and country. I act this way because I am the president of the country and am, therefore, responsible for it. The citizens are my priority. They are my primary responsibility.

I have no objection to the restoration of relations with Iran. However, more haste leads to less speed. Maybe some people are not happy with this because they want quick and swift steps. I like quick steps, but the results of quick steps in such circumstances might be bad. I do not want to take a hasty step and regret it later when I see the opposite happening. God has given us brains. Thank you. [end recording]

PLO Official Describes Talks With Mubarak

NC1608164088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received the Palestinian delegation which is currently on a visit to Cairo. The delegation is led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting.

The PLO delegation is comprised of Jamal al-Surani and 'Abdallah Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Following the 90-minute meeting, 'Abdallah Hurani disclosed he had briefed President Mubarak on the results of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan and the understanding reached with the brothers there on many issues following Jordan's decision to disengage from the occupied West Bank. He added that President Mubarak expressed satisfaction with this fraternal understanding and stressed the need to continue the consultations with the brothers in Jordan and with all the Arab brothers in order to provide guarantees for the success and progress of the Palestinian issue.

'Abdallah Hurani said: We briefed President Mubarak on the various options that the PLO is currently studying, including the declaration of the Palestinian state or the formation of a provisional government and its political program. We explained to President Mubarak that the PLO will shoulder its responsibilities seriously and confidently and will prove its qualification in confronting this stage in the wake of the Jordanian decision.

The PLO official went on to say: We asked President Mubarak for Egypt's advice in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the PLO. He expressed hope that these consultations will continue with Egypt in the interest of the cause.

He added: We agreed with President Mubarak that the PLO must, through its provisional government, come forward with a political program that will be accepted internationally so that the world will understand the PLO's logical and reasonable actions and so that the enemies and foes of our people's independence and self-determination will be cornered and isolated.

'Abdallah Hurani said: The PLO is now facing a test to prove its suitability and qualification and also to prove its ability to attract the international community and world public opinion to the Palestinian issue's side. Consequently, it has—and this is what it is thinking of—to present a political program that stems from international legitimacy and existing conditions. The PLO will certainly formulate this program in light of international legitimacy, the existing conditions, and in consultation with the Arab brothers, foremost of which is the big brother Egypt. The PLO will fulfill all the conditions pertaining to consultations and coordination with the Arab brothers and its friends in the world before undertaking any step.

Regarding the timing of the declaration of a provisional Palestinian government, 'Abdallah Hurani said: It is too early to talk about this because we would be declaring a government before we have crystallized that government's program and before we have submitted this issue to the PNC, the PLO's legislative authority. He added: As to the way the Palestinian provisional government will be formed, this will depend on the program itself and on its adoption. 'Abdallah Hurani said: We have not yet embarked on the details of this formation with regard to whether this or that person or this or that party will be included in it.

Editorial Urges Independent Palestinian State

JN1608204688 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
15 Aug 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The Independent Palestinian State Is the Responsibility of All Arabs"]

[Text] PLO UN Representative Zuhdi al-Tarazi has stated that the PLO is studying the subject of proclaiming an independent Palestinian state and not a government-in-exile. This is a positive trend of great importance at the current stage, especially in the wake of the recent Jordanian decision to dismantle the legal and administrative links between Amman and the occupied West Bank.

There is no doubt that proclaiming an independent Palestinian state requires a thorough and extensive study of all aspects, possibilities, and expected reactions of all parties. Therefore, it would be better if the Arab countries supporting the Palestine cause participate in this study, especially the countries that have good and close ties with countries that have an impact and influence in the international arena. The opinion of world capitals whose support for the idea at the right time is required should also be probed.

For the proclamation of a Palestinian state to have its hopeful effect, there should be serious and effective Arab participation in preparing a sound ground and a favorable international atmosphere, which is essential to ensure that the new state will be well received and be recognized by the largest possible number of states that sympathize with the Palestine question and support the Palestinian people, who have suffered from displacement and pains for about half a century.

Naturally, we should expect feverish Israeli activity in a bid to foil any plan to set up an independent Palestinian state. Israel will also seek to exercise large-scale international pressures to abort the plan. Therefore, all Arab states should stand up in the face of all these attempts through a coordinated and unified campaign so that the Palestinian people may realize their national independence.

Ghali on 'Positive Developments' With USSR

NC1708082288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egyptian-Soviet relations are currently witnessing clearly positive developments. He pointed out that with the settlement of the issue of Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union, a major obstacle in the way of developing these relations has been removed. The Soviet Union has agreed to President Husni Mubarak's demand that it forgo interest on military debts. It has also agreed on a long grace period and an appropriate payment schedule.

In an interview published in the weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH today, Dr Ghali said that a trade agreement valid until the end of 1990 has been signed between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Its aim is to increase trade between the two countries. Another agreement on economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation has also been signed.

Dr Ghali said that during the talks which he held with high-ranking Soviet officials during his recent visit to Moscow, the two countries agreed on the need to adopt practical steps to achieve a just and permanent settlement in the Middle East based on Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories ocupied in 1967.

He added that Egypt and the Soviet Union also agreed that lately a desirable climate has begun to emerge for starting the peace process and convening an international peace conference under UN auspices. Such a conference must be convened with the participation of the parties concerned, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, as well as with the attendance of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Official Leaves for Final Arbitration on Tabah

NC1708082688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0808 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the UN European Headquarters, left for Geneva today to attend the final session of the International Arbitration Panel on Tabah, scheduled to be held on 29 August.

The Arbitration Panel will issue its decision on Tabah on 29 September. The panel consists of an Egyptian judge, an Israeli judge, and one judge each from France, Switzerland, and Sweden.

Mauritania

Iraqi, Libyan Emissaries Arrive in Nouakchott

AB1108182888 Paris AFP in French 1040 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Aug (AFP)—Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq, arrived in Nouakchott yesterday evening with a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Mr Shakir said on arrival that the message concerned the latest developments in the Gulf War following the decision by Baghdad and Tehran to stop the hostilities and begin peace negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. It was learned from Nouakchott that Sa'dun Shakir would be received today by the Mauritanian head of state.

Meanwhile, Col Ould Taya yesterday evening received Muhammad Ruwayni, special emissary of the leader of the Libyan revolution, who delivered a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan emissary asserted after the meeting that the message concerned the procedures for the integration of the Maghreb countries and the situation in the occupied territories.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Nile Flooding, Rains

'National Catastrophe'

NC1608152788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif has urged world countries to immediately extend short- and long-term aid to the Sudanese people to enable them to confront the catastrophe resulting from torrential rains and floods that have swept various Sudanese areas. He added that millions of Sudanese have been displaced and that a major part of the basic services in the floods-stricken areas have collapsed.

In a statement to MENA, the Sudanese ambassador reviewed the results of the catastrophe to date. He said that in Khartoum alone, 70 people have been killed and 213 others wounded. In addition, 114,255 houses and 38 schools have collapsed, and another 98 schools have cracks in them and will collapse any moment. He added that entire villages around the capital have been wiped out, noting that their number could not yet be determined because they cannot be reached.

Touching on the situation in the Northern Province, the Sudanese ambassador noted that the rains have destroyed most of the towns and villages, particularly the provincial capital of Al-Danaqilah and Abu Hamad. He disclosed that the roads and railways between Halfa and Khartoum have collapsed. In addition, 99 islands have been flooded, which has forced officials to evacuate 60,000 people. He said that 12,000 people were displaced after 21 villages were wiped out by floods.

As regards the Eastern and Central Provinces, the Sudanese ambassador said that the roads and railroads linking Khartoum to Port Sudan have been greatly damaged. He added that 10 villages in the Al-Fa'w locality have

been wiped out by floods. [Word indistinct] families have been evacuated to emergency camps after 11,470 houses collapsed in the Kassala area.

The ambassador went on to say that the Al-Sharq water stations in (Al-'Aqarif) and Qurqur have been buried under water. He noted that 200,000 feddans planted with cotton in the Al-Rahad project also have been covered by water. This, the ambassador stressed, constitutes a national catastrophe affecting the Sudanese economy. [passage omitted]

Casualties, Damage Noted

JN1608181088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 16 (SUNA)—The recent rains and floods that hit the national capital have killed 58 people so far, destroyed or rendered shaky 11,425 (114,255) [as received] houses, devastated 28 schools, 311 classes, 455 water closets, 335 walls, and 92 offices besides affecting other 98 schools, a report worked out by the Supreme National Committee on the Combat of Rains and Floods Impact said.

The report also said the northern, eastern, central and Kordofan regions were affected by the catastrophic rainfalls and floods. The report further put the number of voluntary relief organizations in the national capital at nine.

Situation in Capital Described

JN1608192488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA)—The transportation and distribution of relief aid to the areas stricken by floods are still proceeding slowly due to the scarcity of the means of transportation. In the meantime, rainwater continues to besiege several residential areas inside and outside the national capital.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Amin, governor of the Northern Region, said in press statements here that a large quantity of sacks and tents has been prepared for the stricken areas in the Northern Region, but has not yet been transferred there due to transportation difficulties. He stressed that the Northern Region is in dire need of a crop duster and quantities of medicine and pesticides to confront the possibility of epidemics and environmental deterioration in areas that are still besieged by floods and rainwater.

It will be recalled that several areas in the Central Region were affected by the streams of water yesterday, which destroyed a large number of houses.

Official Requests Helicopters

JN1608174888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug. 16 (SUNA)—The Sudanese High Committee for Relief has requested Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Libya to provide Sudan with helicopters to be used for transport of food assistance to isolated people in the flood-hit areas. Chairman of the High Committee for Relief Dr 'Umar Nur al-Dayim has asserted that the food assistance provided by the international community constitutes only the quarter of what the affected people need.

He pointed that the helicopters are needed for reaching the affected people but asserted that Sudanese should exploit their own resources for facing the catastrophe. He said the government has decided to transport 100 thousand sacks of durra to the affected areas from Al-Qadarif and to use 20 thousand sacks of sorghum from the strategic reserve to face the situation, adding that quantities of sorghum is expected for distribution to the needy people.

Relief Materials Distributed

JN1608181688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 16 (SUNA)—The commissioner of the national capital has described as baseless fears expressed by some people with regard to the relief stuff not going to its destination. Maj. Gen. Ret. al-Fatihi 'Abdun said relief stuffs are being directly distributed to people from the airport. He said no relief materials were being stored.

He asserted that the volume of the catastrophe's greater than the available relief stuff. The commissioner met yesterday with the representatives of the relief and donor organizations and reviewed with them questions related to food and relief distribution.

Nile Continuing To Rise

JN1608195688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA)—The River Nile's water level reached 16.56 meters in Khartoum yesterday morning compared with a 16.50-meter level registered when the biggest Nile flood was witnessed [in 1946].

A responsible source at the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources indicated that the Nile water level has continued to rise and expected that this high water level

will continue until the end of this week. The source stressed the need to maintain vigilance and continue monitoring the River Nile and its tributaries. The source added that the Nile water level in Khartoum is expected to continue to rise after the end of this week.

On the other hand, efforts are underway to save the residents of the Baden island in the northern region which, just like some other islands, was totally destroyed by the floods.

News coming from Dunqulah in the Northern Region said that the islands of Baden, Marruary, Lannarti, Musnari, and Irtiqashah [last four placenames as received], all of which are located in the central area of the Northern Region, have been destroyed by the flood waters.

In a related development, a ministerial delegation arrived in Al-Damir in the Northern Region yesterday to inspect the areas affected by the floods of the River Nile. The delegation comprises 'Uthman 'Umar, public works and housing planning minister; Dr Husayn Abu Salih, rapporteur of the Higher Relief Committee and foreign minister; Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, minister of public communications; 'Abd al-Malik al-Ju'li, minister of religious affairs and awqaf; and 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Amin, the regional governor.

The floods of the Blue Nile are threatening the villages located between Wad al-Majidi and Bitri village [placenames as received] in the Central Region. Citizens in these areas are exerting intensive efforts to check the floods. However, the situation has become too difficult for them to handle, and this necessitates official intervention to remedy the situation.

It is to be recalled that the Blue Nile flood waters inundated some flourishing gardens in villages located north of the Sannar dam. Intensive efforts are being exerted to contain the situation there. In addition, precautionary measures were taken to protect the citizens and their villages there.

Mobilization Committee Formed

JN1608194688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA)—The chairman of the State Council Sunday issued a decree forming the Higher National Committee for General Mobilization under the chairmanship of the State Council chairman or any State Council member he deputizes.

In accordance with the decree, this committee will be in charge of general mobilization for relief of victims of rain, streams, and floods in the capital and regions. The committee will also be in charge of organizing Sudanese and foreign voluntary organizations' efforts.

The committee comprises eight members: (?The prime minister), the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, the general controller, the political parties, the factional forces in the unions and federations, and women and youth functionaries, in addition to national figures. The committee is expected to hold its first meeting tomorrow morning.

Equatoria Governor on Damage

JN1608193088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA)—[Passage omitted] Equatoria Region Governor Maurice Lawya said today that the floods have reached Taragaga and Torit areas in the eastern part of the Equatoria Region. He added that more than 4,000 citizens in Taragaga and more than 1,000 in the Torit area have been affected by the flooding of the Kinyeti River.

The governor said that the Mundri area in the eastern part of the Equatoria Region has also sustained damage from the floods and that around half a million citizens in the Equatoria Region have been affected by the floods.

The governor called on the central government and world organizations to offer all possible assistance.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Forms New Government

LD1608192088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] According to a communique issued by the Saharan Information Ministry, the Executive Committee of the Polisario Front has just formed a new government, 2 weeks before giving its answer to the peace proposals on the Western Sahara made by the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar. The decision to form a new government, it is officially stressed, comes in the framework of a series of measures with the objective of promoting the struggle of the Saharan people for national independence.

This new Saharan Government is henceforth composed of eight members instead of thirteen. It introduces some important changes. Here is Taoufik Ben Achouch:

[Achouch] Yes, Mr Mahfoud Ali Beiba is appointed prime minister, a post which he will hold in addition to those of minister of interior and minister of justice;

—Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Salek is appointed minister of foreign affairs;

—Mr Ibrahim Ghali, who has been minister of defense since the formation of the first Saharan Government in 1976, keeps his post;

—Mr Mohamed Ali Ould Ouali is appointed minister of information;

—Mr Sid'Ahmed Batal is appointed minister of education;

—Mr Abdelkader Taleb Omar is appointed minister of equipment and transport;

—Mr Bouchraya Bayoun is appointed minister of trade and development;

—Mr Mohamed Lamine Ahmed is appointed minister of health.

The Executive Committee of the Polisario Front has also appointed Mr Bechir Mustapha Sayyed as official in charge of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Polisario Front.

PDRY

Talks on Trade Union Relations Held With USSR

EA1608203588 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Rajih Salih Naji, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Federation of Workers Trade Unions of the Republic, met in his office yesterday with a delegation from the Central Committee of the Culture and Information Trade Union in the USSR, led by Comrade Vladimir Brinkyev, chairman of the Committee of the Culture Trade Union in the Soviet Republic of Karelia and chairman of the Control and Inspection Committee of the All-USSR Union of Culture and Information.

In the meeting they exchanged views on the development of militant relations between trade unions in the two friendly countries and issues of interest to the workers in addition to a number of trade unionist Arab and international issues.

Brother Rajih praised the support which the Soviet trade unions provide for the PDRY workers and their support for our Yemeni peoples causes. He also praised the construction process going on at present in the Soviet Union and the Soviet trade unions' contribution to that.

The leader of the delegation expressed satisfaction about his visit to Democratic Yemen. He praised the Yemeni workers achievements in social progress and development.

A final statement was also signed yesterday on the visit by the delegation of the Soviet Culture and Information Trade Unions Central Committee to Democratic Yemen which lasted for 1 week.

The statement noted cooperation relations between the two trade unions and the means of developing and strengthening them and coordination between the trade unions. The two parties agreed on the importance of exchange of information, bulletins, and magazines published by the two trade unions and of exchange of experience.

Brother Rashid Muhammad Ibrahim, member of the Central Council of the Democratic Yemen Federation of Trade Unions and secretary general of the Culture and Information Trade Union, signed for the Yemeni side, while Comrade Vladimir Brinkyev, chairman of the Culture Trade Union in the Soviet Republic of Karelia and chairman of the Control and Inspection Committee in the All-USSR Culture and Information Trade Union, signed for the Soviet side.

Saudi Arabia

Briefs

Brazilian Ambassador

Jeddah, 16 Aug, SPA—This afternoon King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his office in the royal court in Al-Salam Palace, Jeddah, the credentials of new Brazilian Ambassador Louis Filarnio Pedroso, the accredited ambassador to the Kingdom. [Excerpt] [*LD1708023988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1337 GMT 16 Aug 88*]

Yemen Arab Republic

Libyan Envoy Arives With Al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN1608191688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Jalal al-Dughaymi, envoy of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the September revolution in Libya, to the brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon.

In a statement to SABA', Brother al-Dughaymi said he carries a message to President leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and pointed out his visit comes as part of the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

He was received by Foreign Ministry adviser Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahid al-Qirbash and a representative of the Presidential Protocol Department.

UN Military Group Arrives To Observe Cease-Fire

JN1608151088 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 16, INA—73 members of U.N. Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here this afternoon to observe enforcement of the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran according to Security Council Resolution No 598. Various technical equipment accompanied the UNIIMOG contingent to facilitate their work in observing the ceasefire along Iraq-Iran borders.

Yugoslav commander of UNIIMOG Major-General Slavko Jovic is expected to arrive in Baghdad Tomorrow.

Technicians Arrive

JN1608172488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—Two planes, one Hungarian and the other Danish, arrived at Saddam International Airport today carrying 40 observers and technicians of the UN emergency force. The observers and technicians are Norwegian, Hungarian, and Danish. They arrived to join the UN emergency force that will be stationed on the international borders of Iraq and Iran.

Commander Arrives

JN1708131088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1224 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group, arrived in Baghdad today.

Seventy-three UN observers arrived in Baghdad yesterday to supervise the cease-fire between the two countries pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Those UN observers brought with them technical equipment. They belong to various nationalities.

Government Presents Seized Weapons to Jordan

JN1608162688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad—The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn concluded their official talks at noon today by signing the joint minutes of cooperation according to which the Iraqi Government presented to the Jordanian Armed Forces some weapons and equipment seized from the Iranian forces.

Following the signing of the protocol, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his profound gratitude to his excellency the Iraqi president and the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces for this gift. He said: Our young men in the Armed Forces will use these weapons properly in defending our nation and homeland, and our life is devoted to this purpose. His majesty added that what Jordan has done for Iraq was a duty dictated by our pan-Arab affiliation.

The minutes were signed in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the members of the Jordanian and Iraqi sides by Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister. Following is the text of the joint minutes:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Out of appreciation by Iraq—leadership and people—of the stand taken by His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and by the people of sisterly Jordan—and out of pride in the stand taken by Jordan—king, people, and government—in support of Iraq in this sacred battle, President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has decided to present the military equipment detailed in the attached list as a gift to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

This gift is presented to Jordan for demonstrating genuine Arab interaction with Iraq in its valiant battles against the Iranian aggression in defense of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and in preservation of the Arab nation's dignity, honor, and future. This equipment was seized by the Iraqi Armed Forces in the following major liberation battles: Ramadan Mubarak; Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah-I, II, III, IV; and Muhammad Rasul Allah.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed deep appreciation for this generous fraternal gesture which embodies the fraternal relations among the Arab armed forces.

To record this historic initiative of great significance in the relations between the two fraternal countries and their Armed Forces, these minutes were written and signed by Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, and by Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Written on 4 Muharram, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 16 August 1988.

List of the military hardware donated by the Republic of Iraq to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and appended to the joint minutes between the two countries: 90 Chieftain tanks; 60 M-47 tanks; 19 Scorpion tanks; and 35 M-13 personnel carriers.

Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, made a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Baghdad on the protocol.

He said: This gift His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presented to the Jordanian Armed Forces is a sign of the pan-Arab cohesion between Jordan and Iraq.

He added: We highly value this gift and appreciate its moral purport in light of the fact that the heroes of the Iraqi Army have shed their pure blood. This military hardware is being handed from one honest and courageous Arab hand to another honest and courageous Arab hand.

He said: His Majesty King Husayn's forces will use them to defend the noble values that his majesty has inherited from his ancestors.

His Majesty King Husayn attended the luncheon His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted in his honor on the Baghdad tourist island at noon today.

The luncheon was attended by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; and Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The luncheon was attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and head of the escort mission; and other ranking officials.

King Husayn Departs Following Conclusion of Talks
JN1608170088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The official talks between the two fraternal states of Iraq and Jordan were concluded this morning. The Iraqi side was led by His Excellency President and leader Saddam Husayn, while the fraternal Jordanian side was led by His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and head of the honor team escorting his majesty the king during his visit; Ahmad Husayn, director of the president's office; Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

The talks were attended for fraternal Jordan by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Major General Ihsan Shurdum, commander of the Air Force; and Staff Major General Fawzi 'Ubaydat, assistant chief of staff for planning and organization.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a special lunch banquet in honor of his majesty the king. The lunch banquet was attended by the members of the two sides to the talks.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Baghdad this afternoon following his official visit to Iraq. His majesty the king was accorded an official sendoff ceremony in which His Excellency President Saddam Husayn headed those who saw the king off.

Also present to see the king off were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; RCC members; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and head of the honor team escorting his majesty the king during his visit.

Also on hand to see the king off were Ahmad Husayn, director of the president's office, cabinet ministers, the president's secretary, the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad, and embassy staff.

His Majesty King Husayn was accompanied during his visit to Iraq by a delegation comprising His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn; His Royal Highness Prince Talal ibn Muhammad; His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi ibn Muhammad; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Froces; Major General Ihsan Shurdum, commander of the Air Force; and Staff Major General Fawzi 'Ubaydat, assistant chief of staff for planning and organization.

Saddam Husayn Receives Libyan Envoy, Message
JN1708112388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy, today. Al-'Ubaydi conveyed Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's congratulations on Iraq's victories to the president leader. He also conveyed a message to the president from Col al-Qadhdhafi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the Arab situation and relations, and Iraq's victories which paved the way to steps toward peace that must be lasting and comprehensive in order to reinforce stability in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary, and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad, attended the meeting.

INA Gives Statistics on Iranian Attacks

JN1608122188 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 16, INA—Officially documented statistics indicated that Iraq had sent 393 memos of protest on pre-planned Iranian armed attacks against Iraqi economic installations, vital areas, waters and territories.

Iraq, for a period of a year and few months before the Iraqi reply on 22nd Sept 1980, complained about armed aggressions launched by Iranian troops against border outposts, towns, border villages and townships, regional waters and economic installations.

Iraqi officials stressed that Iraq exerted strenuous efforts through diplomatic channels and official memos to explain to Iran that aggressions and war do not serve interests of the two sides or the principle of good neighbourhood of two neighbourly countries that are linked by age-old historic relations.

Facts of the consequent war indicated that the war which Iran started following the taking over of their rulers of power and escalating it on 4th Sept 1980, would not solve problems between the two neighbourly countries and the sound course was through mutual understanding and depending on diplomatic means for resolving standing problems.

The Iraqi official memos showed that Iraq had tried to prevent Iran from meddling in aggression and sparking the war and actually took steps towards this course.

The Iraqi memos also showed that Iraq stressed to Iran the necessity of meeting its obligations and pledges, not interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, and not using Iraqi territory it had occupied in the central sector of Zayn al-Qaws and Sayf Sa'd as positions for its artillery to pound Iraqi territories.

'Military Expert' on Iranian 'Aggressive War'

JN1608154288 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 16, INA—An Iraqi military expert shed light on new facts indicating that the Tehran regime had launched an aggressive war on Iraq and continued feeding it for eight years.

Brig. [rank as received] Husayn Kamil, in an analysis published here today by AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad, that the new Iranian regime and [as received] since taking over power in Iran reiterated its ill-fated slogan of exporting its revolution to neighbourly countries. He said that new regime officials set up in Qom and Tehran specialized departments aimed at clear-cut conspiring and aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation.

Brig. Kamil added that Tehran rulers actually started dispatching terrorists across Iraq borders to carry out espionage and subversive acts through assistance from Iranians residing inside Iraq and others who were living in Iraq and of Iranian origin.

The Iraqi expert added that Iranian daily aggressions continued against Iraq's towns and border outposts and villages while their long-range artillery regularly and almost daily bombarded towns, villages and townships.

He further pointed out that hundreds of demonstrations were organized in Iran beating drums of war against Iraq and calling for toppling its revolution through full support and incitement from the Tehran regime.

The expert further said that the Tehran regime also mobilized a mass-media campaign coupled with statements from key regime officials and Khomeyni himself against Iraq, its people and leader.

The Iraqi expert added taht the Iraqi Government sent 393 memos of protest to the Iranian Government warning against aggressive practices and violations and expounding that such premeditated behaviour against Iraq means war and that their answers were full of abuse and slander.

The expert cited several aggressive acts of the Tehran regime including the Iranian authorities invitation of the rebellious command in north Iraq "agent Al-Barzani" from the United States to reside in Iran and offered him necessary backing to resume his hostile activity against Iraq.

The Iraqi military expert said the Tehran regime refrained from returning Iraqi territories of Zayn al-Qaws and Sayf Sa'd and other territories to Iraq and that Iranian aggressions on Iraq escalated in June, July, August and until September 1980 to reach 344 aggressions while the Iranian Air Force violated Iraqi airspace 349 times.

Brig. Kamil added that on 17th Sept 1980, Iran officially announced the closing of Iranian airspace against civil aviation and the Strait of Hormuz against Iraqi navigation and proclaimed general mobilization and started massing up intensive troops along major axes of the two countries borders.

The Iraqi military expert also referred to several facts showing the Iranian regime's repeated violations and aggressions and insistence to occupy Iraq, topple its regime and set up a pro-Iranian hireling regime.

He said that the Iraqi reply came on 22nd Sept 1980 to prevent Tehran rulers from entering and subverting Iraqi towns and to show them that the Iraqi Army and capabilities could destroy Iran if necessary.

He added that President Saddam Husayn and [as received] following the Iraqi reply on the Iranian aggression, announced his peaceful initiative for ending the war and conducting peaceful negotiations on the bases of respect of each other country.

Concluding, the Iraqi military expert said that all indications and numbers confirm that the Iranian regime started the war and aggression and itself bears the historic responsibility for continuing it for eight years and all its consequent destruction and losses.

Paper Cited on 'Flagrant Iranian Aggression'
JN1708085788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: As it begins to assume sublime responsibility for supervising the cease-fire and implementing all the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, the international authority will not find in the file of the Iraq-Iran war anything other than the facts related to the flagrant Iranian aggression, the aggression of evil intentions and threats; lengthy armed aggression in all its forms.

In an editorial today, the paper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party adds: As it assumes this sublime responsibility for ending the longest war in the modern age, the international authority finds itself face to face with the Iraq-Iran conflict, including all its facts and all the intentions, ideas, and practices indicated by these facts.

The paper points out that if the circles of international authority have suffered throughout the war years—from Iran's flagrant indifference to international law, from a party that had continuously violated the sovereignty of other states in the region and the world, and from a government that openly practices state terrorism and sponsors kidnapping and blackmail—then these circles, by virtue of their position and responsibility, know full well that Iraq was the party that suffered most from the aggression and violation of its sovereignty and security.

It has suffered since February 1979 until the time it imposed peace and after it had imposed impotence on the Iranian war machine and deprived the Iranian regime of the ability to cause harm or carry out aggressions.

AL-THAWRAH says that the international authority will not find it difficult to gain the full facts, especially since the Iranian regime does not conceal its aggressive and expansionist theory. It has made this clear through thousands of documented statements made by all the first echelon officials in Tehran—statements that exposed the Iranian regime's ambitions in Iraq's territory and sovereignty and in the territories of several Arab countries. These statements have also revealed the hostility of the ruling clique in Tehran toward all international laws and norms .

The paper pointed to the aggressions that the Iranian regime carried out against Iraq since February 1979 until September 1980.

It says: The Iranian rulers carried out 496 armed aggressions against Iraq. Their fighter planes violated Iraqi airspace, their Armed Forces fired on and attacked Iraqi border posts, their heavy artillery shelled Iraqi civilian and economic targets, they fired on civilian planes, and they hampered navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab.

Likud Ministers To Debate New Sharon Plan 17 Aug

TA1608180988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon says he will submit tomorrow to the other Likud cabinet ministers his plan regarding the extension of Israeli law to parts of the territories. If it is adopted he will submit it to the cabinet, even in the teeth of opposition from the Labor Party. Sharon announced his moves this afternoon at a news conference in Jerusalem. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Changes have been taking place in the region, Ari'el Sharon said, and only Israel is doing nothing. The PLO is becoming much more sophisticated and before long will declare a PLO government and a Palestinian state.

[Sharon] I worry and I feel that that's what's going to happen; that many countries will recognize this newly declared independent Palestinian state.

[Katzenell] Therefore, I propose that Israeli law be extended now, Sharon said, to the areas included in the Labor Party's Allon plan, plus other areas which are important for our security.

Sharon denied that he was abrogating Israel's commitment to the Camp David program or the autonomy plan, but he said autonomy could never be granted to all of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Can we relinquish control of the trans-Samarian highway, he asked, or the hills overlooking Netanya, where the coastal strip is only 7.5 miles wide?

[Sharon] Can we, for instance, weaken our position in the areas overlooking the only international airport that we have? The Ben-Gurion Airport? Can we weaken our position there? Can we do that?

[Katzenell] Sharon said Labor Party leaders have already rejected this proposal, but if he can win the approval of the Likud ministers tomorrow, he will push for a cabinet decision even in the teeth of Labor's opposition.

Prime Minister Shamir has already made it clear that he is committed to the Camp David process and that Sharon's declarations do not represent the policy of the Likud. Shamir has said the decisions of King Husayn and the declarations of PLO leaders do not call for changes in Israeli policy. However, Ari'el Sharon rejects any suggestion that it is Shamir whom he is trying to show up as complacent. [end recording]

The prime minister's office says Shamir is not opposed to tomorrow's discussion of Sharon's plan, but the prime minister says if Labor opposes the idea, it will be null and void.

Peres Says Sharon Plan Would End Pact With Egypt

TA1608193188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres rejects the concept of a Palestinian government-in-exile, saying that the Palestinians are thus escaping the need to decide. He said the Israeli Government would react to such a step as it would to a performance.

As for Minister Sharon's proposal to apply Israeli law to part of the territories, Shim'on Peres said that this would be unilateral annexation and would put an end to the agreement with Egypt.

Mr Peres spoke to our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar during a ceremony marking Petah Tiqwa's 110th anniversary.

Shamir 'Ready in Principle' for Negotiations

TA1408082588 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is ready in principle to conduct peace negotiations with Egypt and a Palestinian delegation. Shamir made his consent contingent upon adherence to the Camp David Accords and upon the exclusion of the PLO from the political process. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also supports the Egyptian president's move and is ready to enter negotiations for a comprehensive peace process with Mubarak.

Sources in Shamir's office stressed that if the Mubarak plan involves either an active or covert PLO participation, Israel will reject the process. The prime minister's office is waiting for full information on the Egyptian plan before issuing an official reaction.

According to reports last Friday, Mubarak does not intend to submit his plan to the leaders of the United States, Israel, and the Palestinians until after the elections in Israel and the United States. This weekend, Jordanian television reported PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's decision to support the Egyptian peace process. The report said that 'Arafat is in favor of a Palestinian delegation—or alternatively, a joint Egyptian-Palestinian delegation—to talks with Israel, but will oppose a delegation with the participation of Jordan.

It has been learned that Peres intends to make several moves to strengthen ties with the Egyptian president. Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir has recently been acting toward reinforcing ties with the Egyptian leadership in the wake of the deterioration in relations with that country. Tamir, who views Mubarak as the central figure in the future peace process, believes that no peace initiative will succeed without Mubarak and Egypt.

Sources close to Peres have reported that the foreign minister was hurt by Husayn's remarks last week to the effect that the king no longer recognizes the Israeli peace option and that he is disappointed with Peres and the Alignment. [passage omitted]

Shamir Opposes PLO Government-in-Exile

TA1608122588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today visited Rishon LeZiyyon, where he was awarded honorary citizenship in the city. He eulogized the two pilots killed in the line of duty yesterday, saying the entire nation mourns them and shares in the grief of their families.

On another issue, Shamir reacted to the PLO's plan to set up a government-in-exile and its demands for a territorial compromise. Our correspondent Meron Tzur joined the prime minister's tour.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We have been hearing all kinds of statements by all sorts of PLO men and those who help and sympathize with them. To my regret, we have not been hearing any friendly voices except for what we have been hearing from the United States, our greatest ally. From the United States in particular, we have been hearing encouraging, friendly voices.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, what will the Israeli Government's policy be if the PLO decides to set up a government-in-exile and, as it has been arguing, takes over control in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Shamir] The Israeli Government will do everything in its power so that these remain empty words devoid of any practical meaning.

[Tzur] And what about peace negotiations? Given the current situation, have any moves been made?

[Shamir] Efforts are constantly being made to arrive at true peace negotiations with anybody who is willing.

[Tzur] King Husayn says the Jordanian option is out. With whom will we conduct negotiations?

[Shamir] Husayn said he would not be quitting the peace process altogether. I think the reality of a common border between Israel and Jordan will ultimately bring even him to the negotiating table.

[Tzur] Mr Shamir, the last question: Elections are just around the corner and will be held in 2 months. Is the current political situation no' in a stalemate?

[Shamir] I do not think we are in a stalemate. It is true that no country whatsoever makes any serious policy changes on the eve of elections. We, however, do not stop thinking, listening to voices, and getting ready. [end recording]

2 F-15's Crashed During Mock Dogfight

TA1708104988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—The two F-15 pilots who were killed when their planes collided and crashed during a training mission over the Hebron Mountains on Monday were involved in a mock dog-fight, a senior Israel Air Force [IAF] officer said yesterday. The two, Sgan-Aluf [Lieutenant Colonel] Ram Koller and Rav-Seren [Major] Ehud Falk, were among the top pilots in the IAF, he added.

In a briefing of defence reporters here, the officer said that a five-man panel appointed Monday night by IAF commander Aluf [Major General] Avihu Bin-Nun would present its interim findings on the cause of the accident within five days.

The officer said that as an immediate result of the collision both planes were so badly damaged they could no longer be controlled.

Simulated air combat has more built-in hazards than any other kind of training and the biggest danger is that of collision, said the officer.

He stressed that since 1980 the IAF has achieved a steady drop in the rate of air accidents, measured in accidents per flight-hours. In 1987 the accident rate was one fifth that of 1980. [passage omitted]

It was conceivable, the officer said, that the pilots did not see each other, as sometimes happens in air-to-air combat.

The full investigation is expected to take no more than a month.

Knesset Candidate Officially Invited to USSR

TA1608142388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Efrayim Gur, Alignment candidate for the next Knesset, has been officially invited to visit the USSR Republic of Georgia. Gur, who is also deputy mayor of Ashdod, has visited his native Georgia as a private citizen in the past. Our political affairs correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that confirmation of Gur's invitation was received today at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

King Husayn's Moves Called 'Safety Valves'

TA1608121188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The brigade commander who will be tried in connection with the Bani Na'im affair will be tried by his immediate commander, not a military tribunal. This is

in accordance with the chief of staff's instructions. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that the investigation carried out to date indicates that the brigade commander apparently deviated from regulations [regarding opening fire] because he was not in mortal danger.

As regards King Husayn's latest moves, Gen Shomron said that these moves are intended to act as safety valves to protect Jordan from the intifada [uprising]. The chief of staff believes that the PLO is presently attempting to move the uprising to political lines and that at the moment it is split between those favoring a moderate political line and the extremists.

Leftist Knesset members called on the chief of staff to tell the government that the IDF will be unable to resolve the problems in the territories without parallel political moves. The chief of staff replied that it is not his job to ask the cabinet to take action.

Judgment of Brigade Commander Found 'Faulty'

TA1608190388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] A brigade commander bearing the rank of colonel will be transferred from his post at once and will stand disciplinary trial before the deputy chief of staff. This was decided in the IDF after an investigation into the circumstances of the incident 4 months ago in which a resident of the Judaea village of Bani Na'im was shot dead during pursuit, following his participation in severe riots in his village.

Our correspondent Beni Liss reports that the investigation revealed that the brigade commander was in charge of the pursuit and shooting. His judgment was found to have been faulty and his actions inappropriate.

Our correspondent Shlomo Arad adds that the Civil Rights Association has demanded that the investigation findings be announced in public.

Several 'Terrorist Squads' Exposed in West Bank

TA1608180488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] This report is just in: The security forces have recently exposed several terrorist squads in Hebron Hills and in the area of Bethlehem. These squads are suspected of belonging to the following terrorist organizations: Fatah-'Arafat faction, Fatah-Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] faction, and the Islamic Jihad. Although they were only recently uncovered, some of these gangs have been active for several years.

The execution of over 20 prominent terrorist acts is attributed to members of the exposed squads. These acts include the assassination of a Bayt Jala policeman and the planting of explosive charges in West Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood and in the vicinity of the Makhpelah cave in February 1980; the planting of a roadside bomb on the road to Qiryat Arba' in July 1982; throwing a hand grenade at a group of Jews in Hebron on Yom Kippur eve in September 1983, in which incident four Arabs were wounded; throwing a hand grenade at Hebron's Bayt Romano in December 1983; the planting of explosive charges at army transportation points near bus stops at the Efrat and Ahim Ashqelon junctions; the planting of explosive charges on railroad tracks in the Rahat and Lahav area in the vicinity of Beersheba.

In addition to the above, the security forces exposed a local organization in Bethlehem whose members threw a number of Molotov cocktails and set cars on fire.

The apprehension of the terrorist squads was made possible by activities initiated by the IDF. The investigation of the suspects continues.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

2d Detainee Commits 'Suicide'

TA1608112588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Another security prisoner was found hanged in his cell. This time it was a 20-year-old suspect who was detained in a solitary cell in Jerusalem's Russian Compound. Steve Rodan has more:

Two days after a Palestinian prisoner was found hanged in his cell, another Arab security detainee was found dead. Badakh Nabil Mustafa, aged 20, was found dangling in his cell in Jerusalem's Russian Compound early this morning. Mustafa was a resident of the Bayt Hanina neighborhood in the eastern portion of the capital. He was arrested on 10 August in connection with violent disturbances in the city.

Police sources said Mustafa was locked in a solitary cell and they believe his death was a suicide. His body was taken to the Abu Kabir Pathological Center in Yafo. Police say they are investigating Mustafa's death.

Two days ago, 'Ata Yusuf 'Ayyad was found hanged in the Al-Zahiriyah Prison near Hebron. The army spokesman termed 'Ayyad's death a suicide. 'Ayyad's lawyer as well as the Human Rights Association in Jerusalem are calling on the chief military prosecutor to investigate the circumstances of 'Ayyad's death. 'Ayyad is a resident of the Qalandiyah refugee camp.

'Ayyad's family says that since his arrest 2 months ago, they have not been allowed to visit him, and they also believe he did not commit suicide, as the Israeli army spokesman reported. Instead, the family says, 'Ayyad was beaten to death, either by soldiers or other inmates. The military police have opened an inquiry and so far, according to the findings at the Pathological Institue, 'Ayyad did commit suicide. [passage omitted]

IDF Wounds Villager in Riot

TA1608122088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] A resident of the village of Tall in the Nabulus District was wounded this morning by an IDF officer's gunfire. He was later taken to a hospital in East Jerusalem. Military sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that an IDF unit on duty in the village was attacked by residents throwing stones and bottles. The unit's commander fired at one of the inciters when he realized that the soldiers were in mortal danger.

Gaza Curfew Defied

TA1608164788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Reporters wishing to cover events in the Gaza Strip, and the curfews there, were again banned from the Gaza Strip today by order of the commander of the Central Command. There were disturbances in Gaza again today despite the curfew imposed on it 2 days ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that hospitals in the area claim that some 70 residents have been wounded by beatings during the 2 days of the curfew. Some of them were brought to the hospital yesterday after the violent demonstration in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood that lasted until midnight.

Judaea and Samaria were relatively quiet today. Curfews are still in effect in the Qalandiyah and Tulkarm refugee camps and the townships of Qabatiyah and Dhannabah. A nighttime curfew has been imposed on Qalqilyah and 'Azzun.

Al-Shati' Resident Dies

TA1608192288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] It has been learned from the Gaza Strip that the IDF is looking into the circumstances of the death of a 65-year-old Al-Shati' refugee camp resident. The man died when IDF soldiers were dispersing a demonstration in the camp. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the dead man suffered from asthma, but his relatives and neighbors claim he died from inhaling tear gas. His body was transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute and an investigation was launched.

Our correspondent further notes that Gaza Strip residents have reported continuous disturbances in the area throughout the day. They said that a youth who was wounded by gunfire in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp was taken to Al-Shifa' hospital.

On his part, the IDF spokesman has issued a statement saying that relative calm prevailed in the Gaza Strip today.

2 Killed in Qezi'ot Riot

TA1608184488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Two inmates of the Qezi'ot detention camp in the Negev were killed and one inmate was wounded during riots that took place there today. The riots broke out when reports of the recent developments in the Gaza Strip reached the camp. Security sources said the riots were quelled in the afternoon. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 on 16 August adds: "This afternoon, hundreds of inmates began rioting in the Qezi'ot camp, also called Ansar-3. Having resorted to tear gas and rubber bullets, the IDF forces found their lives were endangered. They were obliged to open fire at the inmates. Our correspondent in the south, Shim'on Elqabetz, reports that one of the detainees killed was a resident of the Gaza Strip; the other of the village of Al-Yamun. The wounded man is also a resident of Gaza."]

Arab sources in Gaza have reported that dozens of residents beaten by IDF soldiers arrived at the Al-Shifa' hospital today. They had violated the curfews and persistently staged disturbances.

According to Arab sources, several Arabs were wounded in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp.

Military sources said that only a few instances of rioting occurred in the Gaza Strip today, and these were promptly dispersed.

IDF Investigating Qezi'ot Riot

TA1708044388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The commander of the Southern Command has appointed an officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel to investigate the incidents that took place at the Qezi'ot detention camp. Two detainees were killed and one was wounded there yesterday afternoon. They were hit by IDF gunfire during a violent riot in which about 1,000 detainees participated. The riot erupted as a result of complaints by the detainees about the conditions of their detention and after news of the events in the Gaza Strip reached the camp.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at a bus traveling from Jerusalem to Qiryat Arba'. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Disturbances took place at the Shu'fat refugee camp northeast of Jerusalem. A police force dispersed the rioters.

Qezi'ot 'Closed Military Area'

TA1708083488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The area of the Qezi'ot jail in the Negev where two Arab detainees were killed by IDF fire in the course of a mass riot was declared a closed military area this morning.

Today is the 3d consecutive day that the commander of the Southern Command is preventing journalistic coverage of the Gaza Strip. Correspondents are not given information on developments in the area nor are they allowed to enter it, not even escorted by a representative of the IDF spokesman. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the ban on media coverage, as well as the total curfew, has in effect cut the Gaza Strip off from the State of Israel.

East Jerusalem is totally strikebound, following the instructions of leaflet No 23 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising on the occasion of the so-called Al-Quds Day. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that all shops are closed and public transportation is not operating. Reinforced police and Border Police units have been deployed in the area to prevent riots. The police have stopped Arab vehicles from traveling Salah al-Din Street from the direction of Al-Sultan Sulayman Street.

'Indignation' Expressed on Amnesty Report Release

TA1708085888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has expressed both wonder and indignation at the fact that Amnesty International chose to release its report on the territories to the media before showing it to the Foreign Ministry, thus preventing a practical reaction to the details specified in the report. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the report is usually passed on to the Justice Ministry, which prepares the authoritative response. The organization, by making the findings public first, has detracted from the newsworthiness of what becomes a late reaction.

In its report, Amnesty claims that since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, thousands of Palestinians have been beaten not only in the course of dispersing demonstrations or making arrests but also in order to punish and create panic. The organization claims that many of those beaten were badly hurt and at least eight of them died.

Engineers Unveil New Chemical Gear, Vehicle

TA1608131088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Brigadier General Yosef Eyal, chief of the Engineering Corps, says that the IDF is preparing for chemical warfare through the purchase of the appropriate equipment, as well as through education and drills. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that on the occasion of Engineering Corps Day, the corps introduced a new protective kit and a personal mask in addition to a special mobile unit that acts as a sensor for chemical substances in areas hit by chemical weapons.

Gen Eyal also said that the Syrians have reinforced their fortifications on the Golan Heights. This reinforcement is mainly quantitative; its quality has not improved, said Eyal.

The Engineering Corps today unveiled a heavy armored personnel carrier called the Nagmashot. It is essentially a Centurion tank with its cannon and turret removed. It combines the tank's defensive qualities and the APC's ability to travel in rough terrain. The need for such a vehicle became apparent because regular APC's have been prone to being hit by mines and roadside bombs.

Lubrani Meets Lebanese Christians on Elections

TA1608114088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Lebanon is holding presidential elections on Thursday and Israel is maintaining keen, although muted, interest in who will be elected the next president. The coordinator for southern Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, visited southern Lebanon yesterday and urged Christian leaders there not to vote for a candidate who will be controlled by Syria. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] Long before Israel pulled nearly all of its troops out of Lebanon in 1985, it ceased any active involvement in that country's politics. But officials in Jerusalem are now closely watching the current presidential race. Uri Lubrani, the government coordinator for southern Lebanon, said Israel does not have a specific candidate. Its only aim is for the election of a Maronite Christian president who will not be a puppet of Syria.

[Lubrani] Because if that will happen, then it is, to the best of our assessments, Lebanon will continue to be in an ongoing state of turmoil, because a Syrian-dominated president will not enjoy any kind of either loyalty or support from important segments of Lebanese power centers.

[Rodan] Lubrani said he toured southern Lebanon yesterday and conveyed this message to local leaders. As for the Syrians, Lubrani says Damascus is not rigging the elections. That would only damage the credibility of the entire presidential campaign in the Christian community. Instead, Damascus is quietly trying to promote a candidate who reflects Syrian interests, and its chief interest now is to remove the current president, Phalangist leader Amin al-Jumayyil.

By the way, Lubrani said, although the elections are set for this Thursday, he would not bet that voting will take place as scheduled. [end recording]

Says Deployment Review Possible

TA1708050888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The government coordinator for South Lebanon says Israel would reconsider its troop deployment and security arrangements in the area should Lebanon elect what he called a strong president. In a seminar sponsored by the Government Press Office in Jerusalem, Uri Lubrani said, however, he did not think the elections would be held tomorrow as scheduled, but he hoped the elections would not be marred by Christian violence. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Peres Agree on Soviet Immigration Plan

TA1708111188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres have agreed on a plan for flights to Israel for Soviet Jews via Romania. The plan is being submitted to the Dutch Government which handles Israel's affairs in Moscow. Although all Soviet immigrants would, according to the plan, at least touch down in Israel, it would be clear that they would be absolutely free to continue to any other destination of their choice.

Sharon, Weizman Evaluate PLO Direction

TA1408185188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren—live in the studio]

[Text] All the ministers, directors general, and top officials in Jerusalem we interviewed today take the latest PLO moves and declarations very seriously. There is a consensus in Jerusalem that the ongoing uprising in the territories and King Husayn's disengagement from the West Bank have forced the PLO to forsake its traditional intransigent line and obligate it to seek new paths. These political directions will lead particularly toward closer ties with the United States and possible recognition of the PLO by the European states.

The Foreign Ministry's current assessment is that if the PLO declares its readiness to participate in an international conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and uphold the principle of Palestinian self-determination, the United States will be under heavy pressure to talk to the PLO. The assumption in the Foreign Ministry is that the majority of European countries will likewise adopt a similar formula. Israel might consequently find itself in a new and difficult political situation.

The prime minister's office, too, believes the possibility that the PLO would make a serious effort to make its way toward the center of the political arena should not be dismissed. The PLO might do that even at the price of an internal dispute. At the moment, we can do nothing, people in the prime minister's office say, because in any case, we will not conduct negotiations with the PLO.

At today's cabinet session, security sources said that the PLO is internally divided over its next political moves and that it is currently trying to set up political frameworks in the territories while sustaining the uprising.

The positions of the two main political blocs were expressed by two ministers who are members of the Inner Cabinet this evening. Minister Ari'el Sharon told us: The PLO will do everything to win U.S. support. It will even exploit meetings with Israelis toward this end. It is therefore necessary to be very careful not to maintain any contacts with it. At the same time, added Minister Sharon, Israeli sovereignty should be applied to significant areas at once. Minister 'Ezer Weizman, on the other hand, told us this evening: Even if it makes declarations, the PLO will not be able to force Israel to talk to it. We must announce loud and clear that we oppose the annexation of territories and are in favor of a Jordanian-Palestinian solution.

Both the Inner Cabinet and the Cabinet Plenum will most probably discuss the latest developments related to these matters in their upcoming sessions.

PLO Leaders Forbid Political Comment, Activity

TA1408194688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Over the last few days, the PLO leadership has transmitted firm instructions to its activists in the territories to refrain from issuing any declarations or launching any new initiatives related to the political situation. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that many personalities in the territories have reported that they had been rebuked for statements voiced following the publication of the document which was found in the possession of Faysal al-Husayni regarding a Palestinian declaration of independence.

It turns out that Yasir 'Arafat has made it clear, through his representatives in West Europe, that he is not prepared to allow his followers in the territories to take any steps. He even accused some of them of striving to found an alternative leadership in the territories. In view of these PLO warnings, the leading activists in the territories have decided to halt, for the moment, any additional activity toward new organizing.

'Full Cooperation' Between Jordan, PLO Urged

TA1608051588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has called for the reinstatement of full cooperation between Jordan and the PLO. In his first interview on the subject since King Husayn's speech, Frayj said Palestinians are passing

through a difficult period, especially regarding doubts over whether they will continue to hold Jordanian passports. Steve Rodan interviewed Mayor Frayj.

[Begin recording] [Frayj] I think it is essential and imperative that full cooperation and coordination between the Palestinians and Jordanians should continue and must continue for the mutual benefit of all the inhabitants, whether in the East Bank or the West Bank—and I believe this cooperation will continue.

[Rodan] Do you know, sir, that the Palestinians in the West Bank are now consulting among themselves? Some of them have even gone to Amman. Do you think that the king will reverse himself on some of the decisions he has taken, in terms of cutting off the salaries or cutting off of funds to the territories?

[Frayj] Well, King Husayn is a very highly experienced administrator, politician, and king; he is very wise. It's not easy for him just to abandon the West Bank and its people and holy places. Now we are passing through a difficult situation, and I hope the clouds will dissipate and real, full understanding and cooperation between the Palestinians and our people in Jordan will be reinstated.

[Rodan] What the West Bank's Palestinians have been telling me is that their immediate problem seems to be what will happen with the exports; what will happen to the Palestinian produce that normally goes to the East Bank.

[Frayj] I believe exports will not be harmed, and I believe—as the king promised—the bridges will continue to be open and people will be allowed to continue to cross the bridges as usual. The question of passports and nationality is something really very painful for our people in the West Bank, especially under these hard times. But let's hope that everything will be reconciled to the best of the interests of people on both sides of the Jordan River. [end recording]

'Proper Response' to Khalaf Remarks Urged

TA1608121388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Aug 88 p 13

[Editorial: "The Tune Must Change"]

[Text] "Words, words...." This was the reaction of the prime minister's office to the statement by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the PLO's second in command, concerning the establishment of a Palestinian state's "provisional government," which would recognize Israel, with the borders of the 1947 partition plan. To Shim'on Peres, Abu Iyad's remarks are crossword puzzle language or, at most, an unclear statement that does not require a response. We, on the other hand, believe such reactions have long become passe. In the not so distant future the Israeli Government may be unable to shrink from a matter-of-fact response to declarations coming from that direction.

LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE is not a particularly prestigious newspaper and the journalist who interviewed Abu Iyad may not be one of the most accurate reporters. Nevertheless, the trend evident in the public statements made by PLO spokesmen and men identified with it lends credibility to the general orientation of the remarks attributed to Abu Iyad. The constraints imposed by the intifada [uprising] and King Husayn's secession from the West Bank have forced the PLO to stop making contradictory statements. Its leaders long ago realized that if they do not acknowledge the reality of Israel, they would get stuck in a dead end. International, and even Arab, political assistance is a prerequisite for the attainment of their goal since they do not possess the military ability to defeat Israel.

The PLO has probably not changed its long-term objectives regarding Israel, and PLO leaders see a mini-Palestinian state as a springboard for the Palestine mentioned in the notorious covenant. Nevertheless, to the extent that the PLO persists, thwarting these goals is not what is at stake at the moment. Even Israelis who advocate minimalist positions would categorically reject a return to the partition boundaries; they would just as categorically reject the demand for the right of Palestinians around the world to return. On their own, however, these and other Israeli positions will not curb the PLO's political offensive.

In the wake of Husayn's departure and on the basis of a more conciliatory position as reflected in Abu Iyad's remarks, the PLO would be perceived by the world, and perhaps by quite a few Israelis as well, as the only partner for making peace in the region. In any event, this is how any responsible and realistic Israeli politician who is aware of the moods prevailing in the world and the interests laying at their base should see the situation.

In the face of this political offensive, which will yet gather momentum next month in anticipation of the PNC session, Israel will have to go beyond a trivial rejection of the PLO as a partner to negotiations. Since Israel has not had the guts to get rid of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el through a unilateral act at the cost of giving up the territories, and in view of the fact that the Jordanian king decided to stop representing them, the international community will demand—and only fools in our midst may believe that we will be able to ignore these demands—that we give a matter-of-fact response to the declarations from Tunis, which are backed by the reality of the intifada in the field. Reactions along the lines of "words, words," or "crossword puzzles" will no longer do the trick. The sooner our leaders digest the new situation and come out with a proper response, the better it will be for all of us.

King Husayn Returns From Talks in Iraq

JN1608173688 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and his accompanying delegation returned to the homeland this evening at the end of a 2-day working visit to the fraternal Republic of Iraq. During the visit, his majesty met with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and ranking Iraqi officials. They discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international arena within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Cables Saddam Husayn

JN1608202888 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] In a telegram after his return home from Iraq this evening, his majesty the king thanked President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people for the warm welcome and hospitality given to him and the accompanying delegation during their stay. His majesty said that the visit enabled him and the delegation to share with the Iraqis the celebrations of their victory.

His majesty described Iraq's victory as a brilliant chapter in modern Arab history. His majesty said that the grand victory was achieved through the heroic sacrifices of the Iraqi Army, people, as well as President Saddam's wise and brave leadership.

His majesty expressed confidence Iraq would win the battle of peace as it had won the war. His majesty said: Now, a new era of stability and construction would begin in Iraq. Jordan, his majesty asserted, will stand firmly with Iraq in the battle for peace as it did during the war.

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Ends Visit, Leaves 16 Aug

JN1608154688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's representative to the Arab League and ambassador to Tunisia, left Amman this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Al-'Ubaydi met with His Majesty King Husayn and delivered a letter from Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Libya's plan to establish an Arab union with all of the Arab countries. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Masri Makes Statement on Return From Europe

JN1708115088 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has returned home after heading an Arab League committee on a European tour to discuss developments of the Gulf war. Mr al-Masri, accompanied by the Tunisian foreign minister and the Arab League secretary general, met in London with the acting British foreign secretary. They also held a similar meeting with the French foreign minister in Paris.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the foreign minister said that the British and French Governments have declared their support for face-to-face negotiations between the two warring sides to achieve a permanent peace treaty. He added that both countries, in their capacity as permanent Security Council members, have asserted that they would prevent any Iranian attempt of procrastination or a provisional truce.

New Palestinian Department Official Appointed

JN1308080988 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] AL-DUSTUR—It has been decided to appoint Dr Ahmad Qatanani director general of the recently established Palestinian Affairs Department [at the Foreign Ministry]. Dr Qatanani was the secretary general of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry.

Palestinian Joint Committee To Continue Work

JN1608072788 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will continue to carry out its tasks and fulfill its commitments in the occupied Arab territories and that one of the ministers will be appointed as representative of the Jordanian side after the dissolving of the Ministry of the Occupied Territory Affairs.

Royal Decrees Relieve, Appoint Senate Members

JN1308155488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A royal decree has been issued relieving Hikmat al-Masri, Walid Salah, 'Abd al-Majid Shuman, and Nayif al-Khurayshah of Senate membership. Another royal decree has been issued appointing Ahmad 'Ubaydat, 'Akif al-Fayiz, Nizam al-Sharabi, and Jamal al-Khurayshah Senate members as of today, Saturday, 13 August 1988.

Cabinet Adopts Steps To Encourage Investment

JN1508065788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T)—The government said Sunday it had taken steps to encourage investment and boost exports and had eased protectionist measures on several local commodities.

A statement from the Prime Ministry carried by the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said bans on importing some locally-produced goods, including food products,

detergents and batteries, would be lifted and replaced with import tariffs. The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting Friday, PETRA said.

Import bans would be retained on some other items, including tomato paste, tobacco, fresh milk and cheese, mineral water and salt, according to the statement.

The statement said the Cabinet had also decided to offer tax incentives for investment in productive fields. A special department would be created in the Ministry of Industry and Trade to deal with investment inquiries by local and foreign businesses.

The Cabinet asked the Central bank and the Ministry of Finance to prepare a draft law on export guarantees and to study the feasibility of providing credit to Arab and foreign exporters of Jordanian goods.

The new measures entitle investors and companies to launch industrial or agricultural projects, and expand existing projects without getting any license from the Ministry of Industry and Trade or the Ministry of Agriculture.

More on Measures

JN1608093588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 88 p 6

[Subheads as published]

Amman (J.T.)—The Jordanian government has adopted new measures to boost exports and encourage investments in the Kingdom in addition to easing protectionist measures favouring several local commodities. The following is a translation of a report by the Jordan News Agency, PETRA on the measures.

A) Licensing and Registration:

1. Any investor and any ordinary or private shareholding company has the right to set up or expand any existing industrial and agricultural projects without obtaining any licensing from the Ministry of Indusry and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture.

2. Public shareholding companies and owners of projects who ask for financial exemptions cited in the law for encouraging investments, should obtain the necessary licensing from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

3. Investors should register all their investments in special files at the Ministry of Industry and Trade for purposes of follow-up and legal documentation. The ministry should complete the registration procedure within two days of the date of submitting the registration statement.

4. The minister of trade and industry as well as the minister of agriculture are to take the necessary steps to execute the above steps.

5. Facilitating the licensing of tourism agencies whereby a response is given within two weeks to all licensing applications for those applicants that meet the bases decided upon by the Higher Council of Tourism in Paragraph H of Article 6 of the Tourism Law No 30 for 1988. No applications are to be refused unless they violate the agreed-upon bases.

6. All ministries and official institutions and councils which require prior licensing or approval should submit recommendations to the Prime Ministry to ease the procedures within two weeks of the date of this decision. These recommendations should include the bases and rules for facilitating licensing as well as the conditions of approval taking into consideration the annulment of such conditions where possible (applicable) in preparation of its presentation to the Council of Ministers.

B) Investment Unit:

1. A specialised unit at the Ministry of Industry and Trade will be established to follow up on all measures related to investments by Jordanian, Arab and foreign investors at ministries, official institutions and councils. The unit will process applications within a maximum period of one month from the date the applications are submitted.

2. The unit will establish a guide to illustrate the required procedures for investors in various kinds of investments.

3. The unit will prepare bulletins and printed materials to clarify incentives for investment; rules, regulations and procedures related to investment; in addition to the criteria based on which requests for incentives and exemptions are made.

4. The minister of industry and trade will establish a comprehensive structure for this specialised unit which will get the approval of the Council of Ministers one month from the date of this decision.

C) Protectionism:

1. The cancellation of all protectionist measures for industrial products in general, and their replacement with protective (higher) tariffs instead.

2. Protectionism for the following locally-manufactured industrial products will remain: Tomato paste, tobacco and cigarettes, regular and pasturised fresh milk, yoghurt, labaneh and white chesse, mineral water and table salt.

3. Price controls, for products which have been exempted from protectionist measures, will be cancelled except for products priced by the Council of Ministers.

Encouraging Investments

In the area of encouraging investments, the new measures exempted all imported capital goods from customs, fees and other taxes. The law for encouraging investment was amended based on the following principles:

—Defining the period of tax exemptions for economic projects in all developmental areas at five years, with a special fund to be set up to finance with easy terms projects in certain developmental zones.

—The Council of Ministers is empowered to cancel part or all of the tax exemption if it was proven that there were violations in production specifications for which the project was granted the exemptions. This would be done in accordance with recommendations by the minister of industry and trade.

—Approving exemptions from custom and other taxes and fees on imports for economic projects that have already been established and approved for exemption. This would be done after verification that what was imported had been used in the project. The concerned authorities will take all measures to facilitate the entry of exempted imports until actual verification is carried out and it is ascertained that these imported goods become part of Jordanian products.

—Concentrating on the employment of the local labour force, added value and exports and adopting these considerations in relation to granting tax and custom exemptions.

—Defining the beginning of production for approved economic projects if they contain several production lines.

—Exempting projects from differences in prices resulting from fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

—Owners of projects enjoying exemptions are to present regular reports to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to make sure that the specifications for which the project was granted exemptions are still in existence. The Ministry of Industry and Trade maintains the right to invetigate these reports through field visits.

—For the above purpose, a committee will be established to draft the new investment encouragement law to include all the above principles. The financial, economic and planning committee will supervise the work of this committee.

—Granting tax incentives for venture capital companies to encourage the financing of viable productive projects based on the feasibility of these projects without counter mortgages.

—Shortening the period for the assessment of all requests for investment incentives to one month.

Encouraging Exports

With regard to encouraging exports, the following measures were taken:

—The establishment of specialised companies to export Jordanian products. These companies will be given all incentives and exemptions granted to exporters.

—Increasing the number of trade centres in Arab and foreign countries and continuing the policy of setting specialised exhibitions.

—Appoining commercial attaches in Arab countries and the European Common Market, the United States and Japan.

—Merging the Free Zones Corporation with the Industrial City Corporation.

—Commissioning the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan to prepare a draft law on guaranteeing exports for the purpose of studying the possibility of granting financial facilities for Arab and Foreign importers of Jordanian goods.

—Supporting exports through reimbursing the Jordanian manufacturer the production tax or custom fees or any other extra costs he incurred and entrusting the Ministries of Finance, Industry and Trade, Energy and Mineral Resources and the Central Bank to present recommendations in this regard.

—Simplifying temporary entry and drawback procedures.

—Asking the Central Bank to study local credit procedures to support indirect exporters and the reasons hindering the use of these in Jordanian commercial practices.

—Rediscounting commercial papers such as export letters of credit with a rate less than the established interest in the banking system in a clear manner to encourage exporters and commercial banks to finance exports especially at the stage of production and before shipping.

—Expediting the enactment of a law on the specifications and standardisation.

—Establishing a higher council for exports that includes both the private and public sectors. The Minister of Industry and Trade is to present a detailed report on the functions of this council.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Criticizes 'Discordant Voices'

JN1308085088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug 88 pp 1, 19

[Political editor's article entitled: "Let the Discordant Voices Fall Silent"]

[Text] Despite the prevarications, suspicions, news agency concoctions, and press columns that fail to see the truth, the onslaught against the Jordanian position has been isolated now that the assailants' position has become clear: That they have fallen in the enemy trench, sharing with this enemy the same concept adopted ever since Jordan became a bulwark and a thorn in the face of the aggressors and those who cast doubt on its role.

These assailants have misinterpreted Jordan's actions and raised their ugly, hired voices through radio stations that cannot polish their image. They offer what they do not have and keep their people in the dark concerning the simplest facts and issues.

Relying on its great deeds and assets, Jordan declared its position without waiting for a medal from the impertinent or for gratitude from the ungrateful. Jordan did not expect these people, who ended their long silence by uttering blasphemies, to believe in the cause in which Jordan believes. No matter how these people try to atone for their sins, the nation will not forgive them their despicable deeds.

Jordan's conscience is at rest because King Husayn has served the Palestinian cause ever since he became aware of it and since assuming his national responsibilities. Jordan continues to consider this cause the road to Arab victory and glory.

While speaking of its own Arab role and its pan-Arab dimension in the Arab cause, which it has upheld and served for decades, Jordan is not seeking gratitude or praise from anybody, because those whose cause is the Arab cause have appreciated Jordan's efforts, support, and continuous and sincere defense of their cause.

As for those who do not like the Jordanian position and who indulged their imaginations, who expressed dubious anger or vented insincere emotions, and who raised their voices in support of unity from a parochial position where they used to divide ranks, fight unity with the sword of parochialism, and meddle in matters that do not concern them, the wounds that they inflicted in the Arab body are still bleeding.

Our nation's great affliction has been the emergence of those who took the wrong decisions against Arab interests and who spoke on the nation's behalf in a strange incomprehensible language.

Those who supported the Arab nation's enemies, who confronted their brothers, and who were eventually forced to shut up and suppress their pent up hostility when the Arab nation realized new victories in Iraq and Palestine, are now trying to begin a new sedition, to side with a certain group, and to change trenches. They have talked a lot but have done nothing tangible. They have promised clothes without regard for the sizes and the shapes of those who are going to wear them.

The Arab nation is afflicted by the fact that its issues are being dealt with by radios and press agencies. National meetings are called through statements that reach observers and spectators before they reach the men who matter. Many people avoid their practical duties by resorting to verbal parades and exercises in semantics.

What have those who criticize the Jordanian position offered and where are their millions? How much of their obligations to the cause have they paid since they took power?

When those who cast doubt begin to deal with our sacred Arab relations and their model, the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, then our fear of their deviousness grows bigger than our hope that they will abandon their methods, now that they have become inveterate doubters and have distorted the concepts of Arab solidarity, unity, freedom, and pan-Arabism in those well-known practices that harmed the Arab nation's structure and burned their own fingers.

Let them still their discordant voices. There are no more Arab ears to hear them now that they have lost their bets that the Arabs still love fragile expressions and farcical emotions. People who cast doubt cannot honor their checks and they forget in the morning what they said the night before. We rely on the awareness of our Jordanian people as well as the fraternal Palestinian people who lived through the harsh periods of steadfastness, who withstood betrayals, and who experienced difficult choices while facing enemy challenges. Had our enemies believed statements, the Arab nation would not have reached such a situation.

We tell those who are proud of their lies and who think that supporting the Palestinian people and their brave uprising begin and end with statements that they have forgotten many things, that who does not sow the land does not reap the fruit, and that who drinks from a well does not destroy it if he knows what is good for him. We tell them: Those you are speaking for have tried you; they will not be bitten by the same adder again and again.

Jordan, led by Husayn the pioneer who does not lie to his people, will continue to serve its nation with wisdom and the good word, offering all it can to avoid disaster. Jordan will always say: God, guide my people because they lack wisdom.

It is time for our nation to find out where the sincere stand and where those who cast doubt stand. Issues are now very clear and those who call for sedition have been exposed and defeated.

Franjiyah Called 'Confrontational' Candidate
NC1608154488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council has met under the chairmanship of Dr Samir Ja'ja'. Following the session the Council announced that it views with great concern recent developments pertaining to the presidential election and the tense climate which has accompanied them and which pervades the entire situation in the country. The Lebanese Forces Command Council said that this climate has come about because candidates of challenge have been proposed. In connection with this matter, the Command Council declares the Lebanese Forces reaffirmation of the need for the presidential election to be held within the constitutional deadline.

This, however, must be preceded by an agreement over a candidate who bears no grudges toward anyone and whose assumption of the Presidency will not constitute a challenge toward any party. A president of challenge, on the other hand, would signify the eruption of a new war in the country because tensions as well as all forms of domestic and foreign conflicts would reapper on the Lebanese scene. The Command Council noted that this would preclude opportunities for peace and harm every prospect for detente or accord among the Lebanese people, and thus lead to Lebanon's partition.

The Lebanese Forces repeated their call to all the Lebanese people to agree on a new president who has one program; namely, to effect reconciliation among the Lebanese and to prevent foreign interventions in internal Lebanese affairs. The Lebanese Forces stated that a conciliatory president is one who can extract Lebanon from the fangs of foreign interventions and avert the dangers of new wars that would lead to the country's partition and end its existence as a distinctive entity in the region.

The Lebanese Forces maintain that former President Sulayman Franjiyah is a confrontational candidate whose election to the Presidency would return the country to a climate of war.

It is for this reason the Lebanese Forces urges the Chamber of Deputies and leading political figures to prevent the election of any confrontational president, so the country will be spared new bouts of violence that would destroy any hope of salvaging the situation from collapse and that would lead to the ordeal of partition.

Lack of Quorum Expected To Delay Election Session
NC1608171488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] In an statement to the AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM NEWS AGENCY an informed source has affirmed that a decision has been made at the level of the entire eastern area [not further specified] to prevent the election of any confrontational president.

The decision provides for the use of the quorum issue as a legitimate right and a method of democratic pressure. Within this context, the source expects Thursday's session will not be held for lack of a quorum. He noted that more than 32 deputies have agreed not to go to Mansur Palace [seat of the Chamber of Deputies].

These deputies have received assurances of support from some of their colleagues who will be compelled to attend the session because they reside in Syrian-controlled areas. The assurances of support are valid except in the event agreement is reached on the name of the future president in a climate far from challenges and confrontation.

AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY cites informed sources as saying that Thursday's election session is expected to be obstructed by democratic methods, particularly in the wake of former President Franjiyah's nomination. The agency notes that a quorum will not be obtained and this will lead to consultations concerned with holding a new session and with finding a conciliatory president.

Ja'ja' Criticizes Franjiyah, Spurns Nomination
NC1608204988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has stated that the election of former President Sulayman Franjiyah as president of the Republic will lead the country from one crisis to another, from one war to several wars, and will constitute a partition of the country.

In statements to REUTER, Ja'ja' emphasized that the Lebanese Forces will not resort to force to prevent Franjiyah's election, but will use political and democratic methods to prevent the required quorum from being obtained. He asserted that there will not be a quorum on Thursday. Ja'ja' added that the same situation will occur if the Chamber of Deputies holds another session, affirming that this will continue until Franjiyah withdraws his nomination. Ja'ja' pointed out that Syria wants to control Lebanon once and for all through Franjiyah's election. He explained that such an election would signify turning Lebanon over to Syria and imparting legitimacy to the Syrian presence in Lebanon through bilateral agreements.

The Lebanese Forces commander concluded his statements by declaring that although Franjiyah's nomination is a challenge to the Lebanese Forces, he will not nominate himself because any candidate must negotiate with the Syrians and make concessions to them.

Ja'ja' announced that he refuses to sit at the same negotiating table with the Syrians.

PSP Candidate Withdraws; Junblatt Backs Franjiyah

NC1708100488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has declared his support for Sulayman Franjiyah's nomination for president after announcing the withdrawal of Antoine al-Ashqar's nomination.

At a news conference held in Al-Mukhtarah, Junblatt said that the withdrawal of Al-Ashqar's nomination is a technical step because Comrade al-Ashqar cannot garner the required votes to win. Junblatt hoped that the new president will implement the political program advocated by Al-Ashqar. He said: In view of the enormous Arab and regional pressures, the current phase requires Al-Ashqar's withdrawal in favor of Sulayman Franjiyah. He added: If the elections were by popular votes, Comrade al-Ashqar would win.

On the possibility of Franjiyah's adoption of Al-Ashqar's program, Junblatt said: We accompanied Franjiyah in the most difficult phase and brought down the 17 May agreement. I hope that Franjiyah will bring down similar agreements.

Junblatt attacked Amin al-Jumayyil and the Army. He said: Anything could be done to obstruct tomorrow's [Chamber of Deputies presidential election] session. Al-Jumayyil has his basic calculations for obstructing the session in order to achieve a constitutional vacuum and form a transitional government under Simon Qassis.

In the event Thursday's session is obstructed, Junblatt said, there are steps which the nationalist ranks will take. He added: The country's destiny is in the balance and the important thing today is for the country to remain democratic.

On the possibility of Raymond Iddih nominating himself, Junblatt said: In order for Iddih to nominate himself, he should be present in Lebanon.

At the outset of the news conference, which was opened by Ghazi al-'Aridi, member of the PSP Political Bureau, Antoine al-Ashqar read a statement in which he announced his withdrawal from the presidential campaign and called on all forces and influential figures to unite their efforts and resources to provide a calm atmosphere and secure a quorum at the election session.

Al-Ashqar called for a new president who believes in the homeland's unity and Arabism. He stressed the need for carrying out radical political reforms and thanked all the forces which had supported his campaign. He warned of the stand adopted by forces which continue to insist on partitionist wagers and seek to obstruct the session, an obstruction which creates the atmosphere of a new war.

SLA, Popular Liberation Army Clash 16 Aug

NC1608172688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the Popular Liberation Army clashed with machineguns and rockets on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines this afternoon. The Popular Liberation Army issued a statement in which it noted that the tension in the areas east of Sidon coincides with the introduction of new Israeli troop concentrations and reinforcements into the areas facing the central sector in southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa'. The statement said that this indicates that Israel wants to interfere in and obstruct the election.

Our radio has also learned that the SLA and Israeli forces in the security border zone have been placed in a state of top alert. New troops and mechanized units have been brought to the combat lines stretching from the villages in the Al-Nabatiyah District, Al-Rayhan, Kafr Falus, and as far as western Al-Biqa'.

'Violent' Clashes Erupt in Beirut; Tanks Involved

NC1608192788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The security situation flared up suddenly at around 2150 today on the Science College-Kafr Shima-Al-'Amrusiyah combat lines [in Beirut]. Violent clashes involving tanks, artillery, and rockets are now raging while flares are lighting up the area. The Central Security Committee is acting to stop the sudden deterioration.

5 Explosions, Gunfire Reported in West Beirut

NC1608195888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Five explosions were reported in West Beirut tonight. They occurred in the areas of Tariq al-Jadidah, Tallat al-Khayyat, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, and Al-Barbir. Bursts of gunfire, the causes of which are unknown, have been heard in the Al-Barbir area for some time.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Holds News Conference 15 Aug

LD1608135088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 15 Aug 88

[News conference held by President Najibullah with foreign correspondents in Kabul on 15 August—recorded; correspondents' questions read by unidentified moderator except where indicated]

[Text] [Najibullah] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, comrades. In the last 2 years regular visits by groups of foreign journalists are setting a tradition. We are prepared to give you every opportunity to become familiar with the current events in the country and to know all the facts about Afghanistan.

I remember that at a news conference held at the start of the Soviet troop withdrawal, I replied to more than 100 questions. Today also, I have received many questions for this news conference. Before answering these, I would like to say the following:

In my view, two opposing policies characterize the present situation in Afghanistan. On the one hand, the positive and healthy process of normalizing the situation on the basis of the Geneva accords and the compromises of the domestic policy are developing apace. On the other hand, efforts continue to aggravate the situation inside and around Afghanistan. The reason for your visit to Afghanistan proves that the Geneva accords—which provide an objective opportunity to the world to resolve regional disputes—are observed only by the Republic of Afghanistan with courage.

The return of 50 percent of the Soviet limited military contingents is taking place in accordance with the agreements before our very eyes. Today there are no internationalist soldiers in 27 out of 31 [figures as heard] provinces and in the Khowst Major District. The Soviet limited contingents remain in five provinces: Herat, Kabul, Parvan, Baghlan, and Samangan. This has been the third withdrawal. I remind you that the first and second withdrawal took place in 1980 and 1986, but they were only the first steps. Those steps were taken unilaterally showing Afghan and Soviet goodwill. Those steps brought us closer to the Geneva accords.

Despite all the difficulties and obstacles, in the 3 months of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, what have we achieved in our efforts to normalize the political situation inside the country in the last 3 months?

The Milli Shura began its activity. This assembly represents the various classes and stratas of Afghan society and all nationalities living in the country. A new government was formed based on the principle of coalition. Local governments have been and are being formed on this basis. A huge program to extend aid to returnees is being implemented. To date 152,000 persons have returned.

There is absolutely no doubt that we would have achieved more success in terms of implementing the national reconciliation policy. However, continuous subversive activities from abroad, primarily from Pakistan, are serious obstacles to this process. From the moment the Geneva accords came into force, aggressive and interventionist actions against our country from Pakistani territory have increased considerably. This is not merely a case of Pakistan's not implementing its agreement to eliminate the military bases of armed detachments and the groups in opposition to the Afghan Government. The unfortunate thing, however, is that Pakistan itself has actively joined the overt and provocative anti-Afghan campaign. ///provocative anti-afghan campaign.

Other centers hostile to Afghanistan have also become active. Anti-Afghan actions in the last 3 months have taken on the form of international aggression against Afghanistan. You can see how extensive the geographical area of interference in our country's affairs is, and just how many thirst for a bloodbath as they fan the flames of war in Afghanistan.

I am not even talking about the arms supplies to Afghanistan from various corners of the world. How many foreign military advisers are helping extremists in their military actions against the lawful Afghan Government? If the British Government had seen Afghan advisers in the Irish Republican Army in Belfast, what would have been its reaction? It is well known that some circles are carefully observing the return of the Soviet forces, they are practically counting every soldier. We do not oppose such monitoring. We highly respect the activities of the UN Good Offices Mission [UNGOMAP] based in Kabul. However, we want these respected observers to monitor those foreigners who like thieves enter a stranger's house secretly and with arms in hand.

Today, it should be clearly noted that the Afghan people have become the victims of open aggression, strong ideological pressure, and psychological war from external sources. With outside assistance and support, they intend to impose the domination of the so-called Alliance of Seven and extremists in the country. However, the Afghan people know that the domination by extremists in Afghanistan leads to death for Afghanistan and its people.

Much depends on the result of the two confronting policies which I have mentioned: the fate of the Afghan people, the situation in the region—I stress, the situation in the region- and the fate of the Geneva accords. As a result, the Geneva accords, which provide a principled opportunity for resolving regional disputes by peaceful means and through common and joint efforts, will be

seriously questioned. The solution of all these complicated aspects of the Afghan issue is only possible through the complete implementation of the Geneva accords and the national reconciliation policy. The first phase of the implementation of the Geneva accords undeniably conforms with the above statement. [sentence as heard] The Afghan people, its neighbors, and the whole international community could have learned the first objective lessons from this phase. Now it is obvious to the whole world that there is no alternative to the national reconciliation policy in the solution of the Afghan problem, and there cannot be.

The last 3 months have shown precisely who wants the peaceful solution of the Afghan situation and who do not. This fact shows that [words indistinct] who is using words and slogans and [words indistinct]. ///and [words indistinct]

On the eve of the Soviet troops' return some Western media were spreading rumors to the effect that the Kabul regime would collapse after the Soviet troops began to withdraw. Now such confident predictions have been silenced even among loyal supporters of the extremists. I believe that it is now completely obvious to the anti-Afghan forces and those acting on their behalf that they cannot overthrow the popular government from within but only with strong pressure from outside. So the enemies of peace and normalization intensified their interventionist activities at a rapid pace because they know that time is against them.

On the other hand, the people's autonomy has shown its ability to survive during these difficult months. The Armed Forces also have shown their ability to carry out tasks independently in defending the Republic of Afghanistan. The events in Qalat, Jalalabad, Ghazni, and other places made this clear. The extremists' outrageous statements concerning the imminent capture of provinces and cities have remained just words.

Of course, the politico-military situation in our country is still complicated, and I do not intend to simplify it. The situation in Takhar, Konduz, and Konarha where the extremists have stationed most of their forces has become extremely complicated.

I would like to inform you, esteemed journalists, that Konduz is now in the hands of the Afghan Armed Forces. A group of thieves and plunderers attacked the city, plundered shops, and killed a number of innocent people. When confronted by the security forces, they escaped. The murder and killing of innocent people, the theft of their property, and the plundering of bazaars and cities mean that they are not struggling for their belief in Islam and to serve the people but that they are thieves, plunderers, and robbers. This nature of the counterrevolution manifested itself clearly in Konduz.

In combat operations against the Afghan Government forces in Konarha Province, the Pakistani militia participated using the most modern U.S. weapons. However, these actions of the extremists showed once again their true face. Now the Afghan people and the whole world can judge for themselves the true nature of those claiming to fight for freedom and independence. However, their supporters still regard them as the defenders of Islam and not as plunderers, thieves, or terrorists.

What is happening in Afghanistan influences the situation in the world. We recognize our responsibility to our people and to the world, and will do our part to normalize the situation. The whole world waits with hope for the resolution of the Afghan problem. The world knows that this will be achieved only when the Geneva accords are fully implemented. ///are fully implemented.

[Moderator] (Hugo Tamboli) from Italy. Has Afghanistan received military assistance from the Soviet Union since the signing of the Geneva accords? If it receives assistance what kind of assistance is it?

[Najibullah] The military cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan has its own past and tradition. There have not been any extraordinary changes in this regard after the signing of the Geneva accords.

[Moderator] (Golik), TASS correspondent. Which names of which Soviet soldiers and officers, who showed heroism on Afghanistan's territory, will be remembered by Afghanistan's people?

[Najibullah] The names of the internationalist military force will be eternally remembered by Afghanistan's people. We have presented medals to each Soviet soldier and officer who returned to his country. The following words have been engraved on those medals: "From the thankful people of Afghanistan."

[Moderator] (Russ Monro) from the United States. During our visit to Afghanistan we have heard claims concerning the activities of Pakistan military personnel on Afghanistan's soil. Is there proof of this?

[Najibullah] Unfortunately, these claims are not new to us. Those officers and soldiers who took part in combat operations in the border regions, particularly in the regions of Spin Buldak, Konarha and Khowst, have seen with their own eyes that Pakistani militias take part in combat operations together with the armed opposition. Similar information has reached us many times, the most recent being from Konarha.

[Moderator] (Russ Monro) from the United States. Second question: If Pakistan continues to violate the Geneva accords, will you request that the Soviet Union continue its military presence? Or will you ask them to provide air protection for your military operations?

[Najibullah] It is good that you as a journalist pointed in your question to Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords. If Pakistan continues to violate the Geneva accords, the Republic of Afghanistan will be faced with hard choices. In that case, we will be forced to resort to certain measures, taking into account the need to ensure the interests of the country and our people and to ensure peace and security. It is too early to say what type of measures they might be. However, we would prefer to hope that Pakistan and the other sides involved will avoid violations and listen to the voice of peace and reason.

I think there is still the potential and the necessary means within the United Nations—the guarantors of the Geneva accords—and the world community and public opinion to prevent continued illegal actions. ///of illegal actions.

[Moderator] (Obiks) from Brazil and (Bonit) from Spain. Do you think that Afghanistan's Army today has more combat capability than before? What is your opinion on this?

[Najibullah] Our Armed Forces possess greater combat capability today than at any other time. Our Armed Forces have extensive experience in fighting the extremists and are capable of facing any type of anti-personnel actions. The issue is that foreign interference in our country's internal affairs not only continues but has increased. Pakistan is not observing the Geneva accords. Our Armed Forces have been forced to fight foreign intereference. This is a fact.

I want to mention a few examples in this context, and you can judge for yourselves. The crew of an (?N-27) passenger aircraft, Lieutenant Pawiz, Lieutenant 'Abdul Qadir, Captain Muhammad Asef, Captain Mir Muhammad Shah, and NCO 'Abdul Basir saved the lives of 25 civilian passengers. The aircraft was attacked by a Stinger missile while landing at the Khowst airport and could have exploded at any minute. The aircraft crew could have catapulted [as heard] but instead they decided to save the passengers lives.

Muhammad Morad, an officer in the State Security Ministry, has taken part in combat operations in Lowgar, Ghazni and Laghman Provinces. In Qarghah District, Laghman Province, he seized 3 surface-to-surface missiles, 21 antitank mines, and 130 machine guns from the opposition, and arrested 14 bandits. During combat operations in Alishang District, Laghman Province, he arrested 14 bandits and seized a radio system and 14 Chinese machine guns from the extremists.

Zamiroddin, a soldier in Regiment No 88 in Nangarhar Province approached the enemy's position under a hail of fire. He was wounded yet still threw a few bombs [as heard] at the enemy's position, destroyed a machine gun, and saved his friends' lives. These are examples of the heroism of Afghanistan's Armed Forces.

[Moderator] (Roserkh Maist) from Switzerland. Mr President, under what conditions are you and your party prepared to assess and accept the Cordovez plan? Do you or your party have any other proposals for seeking new compromises with the opposition?

[Najibullah] The Republic of Afghanistan holds in high regard the efforts by Diego Cordovez on the Geneva accords and his noble efforts to play his part in normalizing the internal political situation. The whole world knows about the principles of our approach. These principles constitute the basis of the national reconciliation policy and cover a broad dialogue with the opposition. Our only condition for such a dialogue is the cease-fire. We are ready to assess and accept all the proposals, discussed by anyone, that contribute to stability, peace, and tranquillity. As far as our proposals are concerned, we have made 24 concessions to the opposition and are ready to move toward further concessions in order to ensure peace. As one can see, it is not easy to take steps toward making concessions. This requires wisdom, knowledge, and boldness. Those who do not value the interests of Afghanistan's people but only their own and their patrons' selfish interests should realize that by avoiding dialogue and compromise they assume a great responsibility toward Afghanistan's people and the international community.

[Moderator] (Hugo Tamboli) from Italy. Is it still possible to involve the former king in the process of a peaceful settlement?

[Najibullah] Yes, the former king could join the process of national reconciliation like any other peace-loving Afghan and fulfill his national duty for the homeland and people. As far as we are concerned, from the very beginning of the declaration of the national reconciliation policy we extended this invitation to all national and political personalities, to all patriots, to all leaders of the tribes and nationalities, and to all theologians. This invitation still holds and we have renewed it continuously. ///renewed it continuously.

[Moderator] Brazilian correspondent (Obiks) and Spanish correspondent (Bonit). Do you expect a rebel attack on Kabul? Is there a plan to evacuate the city? If there is such a plan, what does it say?

[Najibullah] The extremists can still shell Kabul from a great distance. They plan terrorist acts and explosions inside the city. These are their tactics and their capability; this causes the deaths of ordinary people. However, the extremists can by no means attack Kabul. So the question of evacuating the city is unjustified. No one gives it a thought.

[Moderator] Japanese correspondent (Yashidoshi) [words indistinct]. What is the situation in Qandahar Province?

[Najibullah] From the military viewpoint the situation in Qandahar is normal. You have met with General (Ulomi) in Qandahar. I hope you are convinced about that.

[Moderator] U.S. reporter (Russ Monro). What is your response to the statement by General Sokolov published in OGONEK magazine, saying that your government is divided into factions, that it does not enjoy the people's support, and that he does not believe in the ability of your government's army to defend the country after the withdrawal of Soviet troops?

[Najibullah] I am fully aware of the Sokolov interview. I cannot agree with it in every respect. However, every writer may hold an opinion about Afghanistan. Yet it seems to me that the interview was one-sided and infinitely naive. As far as we are concerned, we look with optimism to the future. We take into account the positive experience of the people, no matter how small it is, regarding the national reconciliation policy. We are proud of this experience. This experience can provide a positive basis for the future.

[Moderator] Japanese correspondent (Koyoshedo Shi). Do you consider yourself number one in the government?

[Najibullah] I am the president of Afghanistan and I am not a member of the government. You should have known that. Study our constitution. Esteemed Hasan Sharq leads the Afghan Government. Esteemed Hasan Sharq is an experienced and independent politician. He is well known for serving in a sensitive post in previous governments. As for ranking political personalities, we do not engage in counting someone first, second, or third. In the first place, power belongs to the Afghan people and it is in the hands of the people.

[Moderator] Italian correspondent [words indistinct]. Do you believe that your predecessors in the presidency made mistakes?

[Najibullah] I believe my predecessors did make mistakes. No one is insured against making mistakes, particularly in the difficult duty of government administration. I believe the important thing now is that we should not make mistakes and do not repeat previous mistakes. If we made mistakes we should not repeat them.

[Moderator] U.S. reporter (Russ Monro). You said earlier that you were elected president for 5 years by the Grand Assembly, and you intend to remain in the post for the whole period. Can you envisage a situation in which you resign in the interest of national reconciliation?

Similar questions have been submitted by Brazilian correspondent (Obiks), Spanish correspondent (Bonit), and Italian correspondent (Hugo Tamboli).

[Najibullah] First of all, in accordance with the Afghan Constitution the term of the Afghan presidency is 7 years, not 5. I was elected on the basis of the Afghan people's will by the Grand Assembly of Afghanistan, the highest organ of the people's will. I see no reason why I should not discharge my duties in this post to serve my people and my country. It is naive to suggest that the removal of one person and his replacement by another will undo the knot of the complex Afghan problem. Let us consider the causes of the problem, particularly the country's situation. [passage indistinct] ///situation. [passage indistinct]

[Moderator] Swiss correspondent (Ernest Miyester). How do you assess your government's future if the national reconciliation policy does not achieve the appropriate results? Will that have an impact on the party's unity?

[Najibullah] I do not agree with the view that national reconciliation will not achieve appropriate results. Peace and calm will return to Afghanistan because our people are tired of war and this is a serious political factor which becomes more apparent every day. There is no alternative to the national reconciliation policy other than war. The whole nation cannot commit suicide. And we as patriots will not allow this to happen. In your question you [words indistinct]. This is completely correct because the PDPA is the organizer and executor of the policy of national reconciliation. This has enhanced the PDPA's prestige among the people. So far as the party's unity is concerned it is a specific case.

Today the PDPA lives and operates seriously in a new style. New and unusual problems are before them and all these problems will be solved. Certain questions may occur to every member of the leadership and each may well have specific views. Discussions and exchanges of views might take place, for there are difficult political problems before us. The existence of such discussions does not imply a weakness in the party but rather testifies to its vitality. Now I assure you that the party's unity is intact and this should reassure all of you. Now the party defends, more steadfastly than before, the Republic of Afghanistan and the democratic changes in society.

[Moderator] The [words indistinct] weekly. What lessons has the PDPA drawn from the mistakes of the past?

[Najibullah] Serious conclusions have been drawn from them and will be implemented. We decided to assess by new methods numerous phenomena in the socioeconomic life of the country in accordance with the present state of Afghan society. For instance, the PDPA is sharing power. A new government was formed on a coalition basis. A democratic left block has been formed.

Political parties have been permitted to engage in political activities. The party apparatus has been reduced and its structure has been changed. These measures can be continued. And naturally, as you know, it is not a simple task.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct], a correspondent from a Geneva magazine. Will the party change its Marxist position and gravitate toward the moderates, or will this weaken it?

[Najibullah] I will avoid giving a detailed answer. However, I would like to say the PDPA does not consider itself a Marxist communist party. Basic documents of the PDPA mention this issue and I draw your attention to them.

[Moderator] Mr [name indistinct], and [name indistinct], a Spanish correspondent. On the basis of information from the Soviet Union, a split in your party can become an obstacle to normalizing the situation in Afghanistan and to the process of national reconciliation. What is your opinion of this?

[Najibullah] There are many issues connected with the PDPA and they are similar. I think I would repeat that differences in views and approaches does not mean a lack of unity in actions. There are no factors in the party that would create obstacles to implementing the national reconciliation policy. The all-party conference last year, and the two plenums that followed this year, allow us to insist that our party resolutely defend national reconciliation and take practical steps toward implementing it. ///toward implementing it.

[Moderator] There is another question from (Obiks) and esteemed (Bonit), the Spanish correspondent. Where is Babrak Karmal now?

[Najibullah] Everyone knows that Comrade Babrak Karmal has resigned from party and state posts on medical grounds. Currently, he is staying in the Soviet Union for treatment and rest.

[Moderator] From a Swiss weekly. How do you assess the appointment of the nonparty governors in Qandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, and some other provinces? Does this not imply that the majority of the people do not trust your party?

[Najibullah] If we look carefully at the governor of Qandahar we see that he is a PDPA member. But we must thank you for raising in your question the issue of state sovereignty being administered by coalitions in the localities. So far as trust in the PDPA is concerned this cannot be demonstrated by the number of positions. The roots of the PDPA are deeper than that. The PDPA is the most credible force in the society and it will remain so.

[Moderator] Question from (Yoshidoshi Deki), a Japanese correspondent. During the month of Hout [21 Feb-21 March] you established the special guard. Why was this done, to defend the capital or for your personal security?

[Najibullah] Your question is specifically military, and special military forces have special tasks. All military units, including the guard, perform their roles in the country's defense system. So far as my own security is concerned, in the present situation no patriotic Afghan thinks about his personal security. All of us think only about the major task: the defense of the country, the people, and the republic. In the present situation the special guard protect you personally and your colleagues.

[Moderator] Another question by (Yoshidoshi Deki). According to a TASS report dated 28 July, Moscow is ready to talk to the seven party alliance, based in Peshawar, about its POW's. Do you approve of direct talks between Moscow and the seven party alliance in this connection or on other issues?

[Najibullah] Yes, I do.

[Moderator] Question by esteemed Ludmila (?Anenkova), correspondent from Soviet radio. What is the role of the women of the Republic of Afghanistan in the development of the country?

[Najibullah] First it should be said that women in Afghanistan are suffering enormously from the calamities of war and destruction. Afghan women, particularly from this point of view, would benefit from the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. Women activists have become united in the National Women's Council, in which 125,000 women are being organized. Around 100 production and professional women's societies exist. More than 20,000 women are actively working in these societies. Women are mainly engaged in leading branches such as light industries and foodstuffs, and in the spheres of culture and public health. Most women are serving the state apparatus. They number 18.6 percent of all employees in the state apparatus. Women are also taking active part in the armed defense of the Republic of Afghanistan. At present, a program is being prepared by the government to mobilize the women's movement. ///the women's movements.

[Moderator] Question from a correspondent of KOMSOMOLKAYA PRAVDA. What role has the state given to youths in consolidating the policy of national reconciliation and the development of the country under the new conditions?

[Najibullah] The main and determining role [words indistinct] for education and forming a family. The youths have showed themselves as true fighters for the cause of national reconciliation. Today, 40 per cent of the Democratic Youth of Afghanistan [DYOA] is

defending the Republic of Afghanistan with arms. The DYOA members have carried out a lot of work in the literacy campaign and establishing links with refugees. They are helping the returnees and are looking after the families of the martyrs. Annually 15,000 youths are taking part in construction brigades. In the first quarter of this year alone, for example, 18 schools have been built. We trust our youth and are proud of them.

[Moderator] Question by [name indistinct], Japanese correspondent. It has been said that some time ago you mentioned the law on capital punishment. Are you prepared to approve this law?

[Najibullah] A specific law on capial punishment does not exist in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Penal Code of Afghanistan, which was passed before the revolution, is still valid. In this code there is an article on capital punishment.

[Moderator] Esteemed President, all questions which were presented in writing in advance have finished.

[Najibullah] Now if you friends and esteemed journalists have any other questions.

[Unidentified German correspondent in English with superimposed Dari translation] On behalf of foreign correspondents based in Kabul, I would like to express thanks for the facilities provided by the Afghan side for foreign correspondents and for the Afghan hospitality. The second issue I would like to mention is that the important thing for us foreign correspondents is not to stay in one place, for example in Kabul, but to travel to various corners of the country and prepare reports about the country. In the past few days we fortunately have had such possibilities. We also hope that what we do in Afghanistan should not be just for our profession but also for the people of Afghanistan. We wish to come to Afghanistan more and to enjoy these facilities. Once again I thank you for providing facilities for us.

[Najibullah] Thank you. You will always be welcome you we will provide you with all necessary facilities.

[Unidentified UPI correspondent in English fading into Dari translation] I second what my colleague said. We are coming to Afghanistan under difficult and complicated circumstances. If you can, please instruct officials to issue visas to correspondents to enable us to return to Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] We hope you will visit Afghanistan many times. We will not only give you visas but will provide you with other facilities, because our links with all the people of the world is through you. ///is through you.

[Unidentified reporter in English fading into Dari translation] During today's press conference we learned of military operations by Pakistani forces. What are Pakistan's aims regarding such operations on Afghan soil?

[Najibullah] In reply to this question I should say that not only ourselves but also the Western mass media have said dozens of times that rocket attacks by counterrevolutionaries on cities, and on Kabul in particular, have increased of late. I think there is no better proof than this.

[Unidentified reporter in English fading into Dari translation] [Name indistinct] reporter from [name indistinct] paper from Switzerland. Yesterday, the Soviet commander General Gromov told us that Soviet forces remain in only six provinces of Afghanistan. Today you said that they are only in five provinces. Please tell us in how many and in which provinces Soviet units are still present?

[Najibullah] Please count with your fingers, I will name them: Herat, Kabul, Parvan, Baghlan, and Samangan. Yes, if you want to count the Soviet border forces in (Hayratan), which we do not count, then there are five provinces, dear comrades.

[Unidentified reporter in Pashto] Esteemed President, today a lot has been said on war and opposition. I would like to ask you about the independence day celebrations. These days the 69th anniversary of the restoration of Afghanistan's independence and also Army Day will be marked. Is not [word indistinct] that these two celebrations are marked in one day?

[Najibullah] Sixty-nine years ago the independence of Afghanistan was declared. We have time and again stated that the blatant and obvious aggression from outside and the undeclared war by imperialism and other reactionary supporters against Afghanistan is a threat to the national sovereignty, independence, and freedom of our country. The force, which so far has not only resisted this aggression but has in many areas carried out offensives and crushed the enemy for their sinister aims, will no doubt have a link with the [word indistinct]. That is why we mark this day as the day of the courageous Army of the Republic of Afghanistan, which is fighting for the independence, freedom, and territorial integrity of the country.

[Unidentified correspondent in English fading into Dari translation] Mr President, today you levelled serious allegations at the [word indistinct] active Pakistan operations on Afghan soil. What measures do you intend to adopt in this regard? ///in this regard?

[Najibullah] I said earlier when answering various questions and also in my last reply that basically we are not confronted by internal forces who can resist the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan; we are confronted

with blatant interference and violation from outside. They have (?announced) their objectives which are contrary to the freedom, independence, and territorial integrity of the country and for the division of Afghanistan. Gulbuddin has explicitly announced, despite the historic characteristics of Afghanistan seen in our fathers' and ancestors' courageous defense of their country, that when he takes power there will be no border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, no visas or passports. Allegedly, the territory of Afghanistan will be linked with Pakistan. This evil (?objective) is only one of many in the history of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of our country. However, until the day when there is only one Afghan left alive, those who have such ideas must learn the lessons of history, the lessons taught to the British colonialists; that is, Pakistan's teachers. They should read these lessons in history and not make the people of Afghanistan teach the lessons of history once again to the British pupils [Pakistan].

[Unidentified correspondent in English fading into Dari translation] Aside from the Soviet military contingents in Kabul, who really defends Kabul? Also, who fires missiles at the city?

[Najibullah] The defense of Kabul for the sake of peace and calm is carried out by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, self-defense detachments, party detachments, and social organizations. The missiles were fired by the terrorists at the instruction of their international supporters.

[Unidentified correspondent] Yesterday, at his press conference General Gromov said that Soviet forces remained in six Afghan provinces. He did not mention Parvan Province; instead he mentioned Farah and Kapisa. I want to know what is happening in these two provinces? Are there any Soviet forces in these two provinces? The second part of my question is: Do you intend to send fresh forces to Konduz Province, or have you sent any to carry out military actions against the guerilla forces? Third: How do you assess the military activities of the existing Afghan forces in Konduz?

[Najibullah] In response to your first question I would say the five provinces are Herat—of course the Soviet contingents in Shindand are considered to be in Herat, not Farah—Kabul, Parvan—the forces here are in Jabol os Saraj region, and Jabol os Saraj is on the border between the two provinces of Parvan and Kapisa, so we count this as in Parvan Province—in Baghlan, and Samangan.

On the second issue, which General Gromov has explained to you, perhaps he had mentioned the units in (Hayratan)—they belong to Mazar-e Sharif. These are border units, which we do not take into account.

In connection with your third question, the units and forces in Konduz are enough to carry out successful combat operations against the counterrevolutionaries. That is why I mentioned to you that the enemy has been eliminated from Konduz. ///eliminated from konduz.

[Correspondent (name indistinct) from TIME magazine, in English fading into Dari translation] In our press conference yesterday with General Gromov we were told that the partial victory of guerilla operations in Konduz underscores the fact that the Afghan Armed Forces, who were not paying close attention from the military point of view, seemed almost complacent. Is this a good lesson for those in charge of the military forces of Afghanistan so that this will not happen in the future?

[Najibullah] In a word, I can say that as revolutionaries we all learn from successes and failures. In every success we also have shortcomings and [word indistinct] which we should highlight and act to correct. The same goes for our failures. The strong point about revolutionaries is that they discuss issues critically.

[Unidentified correspondent in Russian fading into Dari translation] During the withdrawal has there been any confrontation with the local population?

[Najibullah] During the return of the Soviet forces, there have not been any confrontations, and they have been sent off with gratitude by the people of Afghanistan in various areas, not with bullets, but with flowers, which the internationalist soldiers deserve.

[Moderator] There are no other questions.

[Najibullah] In that case, let me thank you sincerely for your attention in this press conference. I hope you have become more aware of what is happening in our country, which is experiencing historic and significant events these days. Tell these facts to the people of the world. I request, esteemed correspondents and dear friends, that you frequently visit Afghanistan and convey the truth about Afghanistan to the people of the world. Thank you for your attention.

Arms Depot Blast Kills Soviets, Kabul Forces

BK1708084888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP)—Afghan rebel rocket-fire has partly destroyed a munitions depot in northern Afghanistan and left many people including Soviets dead or wounded, diplomatic and mujahidin sources said Wednesday [17 August].

Diplomatic sources here said the casualty figure was likely to be high following a huge fire last week at a fuel depot at Kelagay near Pol-e Khomri, capital [as received] of Baghlan Province, which sparked explosions of arms and ammunition depots.

No precise casualty figures were given by the diplomatic sources, but a mujahidin source said around 100 people, including Soviet civilians and military personnel as well as Afghans, were killed.

At least one long range 122mm rocket landed in the depot sparking a major fire which blew up fuel and munitions.

Mujahidin sources in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, said the rebels had heard powerful explosions after firing rockets at the base.

They added that five helicopters and about 10 tanks had been destroyed.

About 1,000 Soviet troops and their families live on the base which is located on a strategic highway linking Kabul to the Afghan-Soviet border, mujahidin sources said.

Kelagay also hosts a big air base and houses huge stocks of fuel, arms and explosives for use mainly by Afghan Government troops, a diplomatic source here said.

Diplomats Report Kabul 'Desperate' for Troops
BK1608104988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—The government in Kabul is desperate for new recruits to replace Soviet soldiers withdrawing from Afghanistan and men are increasingly being forced into the army, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

Half the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan have withdrawn and the regime, anticipating a rebel onslaught, "has become even more desperate for new recruits to take the place of departing Soviets", the diplomats said.

Increasing numbers of men in Kabul, ranging from teenagers to the elderly, are being taken off the streets and forced into the army, they said.

Women are seen crowding the induction centre in Khairkhana, scanning the draft lists to see if missing sons have "volunteered", the diplomats said.

Last week, two diplomats were accosted in Kabul's Chicken Street in mistake for Afghans, the diplomats in Islamabad said. The pair were told that if they could not produce appropriate documents they would be inducted on the spot into the Afghan Army. The diplomats showed their papers and were allowed to go by their questioners—who identified themselves as members of Parliament, the Islamabad diplomats said.

Afghan President Najibullah has said 10,000 youths have been mobilised in Kabul alone in the past two months. Many Afghans believe the renewed conscription drive could spark a protest campaign, the diplomats said.

The government stepped up the drive after its declaration of a special security zone up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) around Kabul and because of the increased level of combat in many areas of the country, the diplomats said.

They said the mujahidin continue to fire rockets at military installations in Kabul and the nearby eastern city of Jalalabad, while fighting has intensified in northern Konduz, which for several days was held by rebels.

Dr. Najibullah said his troops regained control of Konduz Monday.

Rebel sources said fighting was continuing in Konduz and mujahidin were in possession of nearby Khanabad District centre.

The diplomats confirmed a mujahidin report that the resistance on Friday captured the Takhar provincial capital, Taleqan, close to the Soviet border and they said pressure was mounting on another Takhar town, Sheberghan.

Heavy Soviet bombing forced mujahidin to withdraw from Shakar Darreh District, north of Kabul, and troops have re-established control of Mohammad Agha, which has been changing hands since it first fell to rebels in late June.

Guerrillas carried out a rocket attack last week on the big Kalagay ammunition and fuel depot near Pol-e Khomri, capital of Baghlan Province, the diplomats said.

One source said two rockets hit the depot, starting a fire, but it was contained and no ammunition was destroyed. A Soviet source said only one rocket hit and fuel and ammunition blew up. One helicopter was destroyed and Soviet casualties were heavy, he said.

The Soviet Union had withdrawn half its troops by the August 15 deadline set in the Geneva accords signed in April, diplomats had said Monday.

"Despite loud criticism of Pakistan's alleged violation of the Geneva accords, there is no sign that the Russians intend to breach their commitment to withdraw," the diplomats said Tuesday.

A high percentage of Soviet dependants have also left, the diplomats said, quoting Afghan sources. But Soviet diplomats continue to deny this.

Afghan shopkeepers say even the Soviet prostitutes in Kabul have now been withdrawn, the diplomats said.

Situation in Konduz Reported 'Normal'

LD1608174388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The situation in the city of Konduz has returned to normal and the country's armed forces, with the cooperation of the citizens, are in full control of the situation. This was reported from Konduz this afternoon by a BIA correspondent. He added:

Our compatriots are aware that a number of extremists and warmongering groups, equipped with heavy and light weapons, have recently tried, in accordance with instructions from the enemies of the Afghan people and with hostility toward the peaceloving people, to put pressure on the city and surroundings of Konduz Province. By killing our compatriots, including children, women, elders, ulema, and clergymen, and by plundering public and private property, they try to disrupt peace and security around Konduz.

As a result of barbarous attacks by the extremists, a number of mosques, houses, and schools were damaged, and shops were looted by the rioters. The country's armed forces took action in order to restore law and order and to crush the plunderers and saboteurs. By utilizing all-round cooperation with the inhabitants and through the use of effective military tactics, the armed forces inflicted crushing blows on the subversive and plundering extremists forces. They have crushed over 265 extremists attached to the groups of Qari Rahmatollah, Sayd Hamidollah, and Aref Khan, in the Mahmal street, Chehil Dokhtaran street, and Zard Kamar areas of Konduz city. A large number of extremists were also injured.

During this combat operation 15 plundering extremists were arrested and their weapons were seized. Three enemy mortars and 46 rocket launchers were destroyed and thousands of rounds of ammunition for various weapons and tens of hand-grenades were seized.

The BTA correspondent added that as a result of this action several extremists hideouts created around the city were destroyed by the armed forces and their consolidated positions were eliminated.

The report adds that the inhabitants of the city are extending all-round cooperation to the Armed Forces' personnel as they discharge their patriotic duty to restore peace and calm throughout Konduz and to clear the environs of this province of the plundering and criminal elements.

Security Forces Find Hidden Ammunition

LD1408205388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Some ammunition that had been expertly hidden inside a model 2224 oil tanker truck by extremists for use in terrorist and destructive activities has been discovered and seized in Herat City by security forces.

According to the BIA military section, eight boxes of various shells had been hidden in the oil truck with license plate number 648 Qandahar, which had entered the city of Herat. The truck was seized along with its passengers, and the incident is under serious investigation.

Rebel Convoys Attacked by Armed Forces

LD1408231488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] BIA's military section reports that four convoys carrying extremists arms and ammunition, which were passing recently from the areas around Nangarhar Province, Khowst Major District, and Orgun District, Paktika Province, came under attack by the Armed Forces.

The report adds that as a result of crushing blows, 18 persons from the convoys' guardians were crushed and 6 of them were injured.

Also hundreds of enemy weapons, including light and heavy weapons, and a large amount of their ammunition were destroyed and their transport vehicles were eliminated.

According to another report, an eight-man group which was trying to cross the border and carry out criminal activities in order to disrupt peace and tranquility in the areas around Konarha Province, was crushed recently by the border forces. As a result of this activity, eight enemy weapons were destroyed.

Explosives Seized in Kabul Orchard

LD1508221488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Explosives and explosive devices were found hidden by extremists in an orchard in Qalreh (Qazi) of Ward 6 in Kabul. They were discovered and seized today by Criminal Department officials from Sarandoy's Ward 6.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that the materiel includes: 6 kg of Trotil, 4.5 kg gunpowder for antivehicle and antipersonnel mines, and other things needed for the explosive devices.

Casualties in 'Extremist' Clashes Detailed

LD1608093788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 15, BAKHTAR—Seventeen extremists including one of their ringleaders were killed and over three others wounded during the clashes occurred in the Chahar, Bulaq District of Balkh Province and the Seyyedabad District of the Vardak Province recently.

Similarly, as a result of the skirmishes took place among the armed extremist groups, two persons including 'Abdul Wadud, a ringleader of one of the groups were killed and two others wounded in the Bagram District of Parvan Province during last week.

Two extremists were wounded during an armed clash which took place in the Qeysar District of Faryab Province as well.

BAKHTAR on Remarks by Pakistan's Khan
LD1508082888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 14, BAKHTAR—Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, after the conclusion of his talks in Washington and Moscow, addressing the journalists in Islamabad said:

According to Geneva agreements, Pakistan has not undertaken any commitments regarding the termination of its sympathy with mujahidin. It will be unrealistic and unnatural if Pakistan is expected to deter the political activities of three million Afghan refugees.

By such assertion, Yaqub Khan covers his face with a "humanitarian" guise and speaks of "sympathy," in order to conceal his interventionist policy in the internal affairs of Afghanistan which has been intensified particularly after the signing of Geneva agreements. It is clear that Pakistan has not been forbidden from sympathising with Afghan refugees and on the contrary, from ethical point of view is obliged to express genuine sympathy with refugees.

It is incumbent on Pakistan to sympathise with refugees by helping them to return to their homeland. But, it's behind such a "sympathy" that the scope of interventions by Pakistan into the internal affairs of Afghanistan is increasing. It is on the basis of such a sympathy that since the signing of Geneva agreements the dimension of aggression and intervention by Pakistan into the internal affairs of Afghanistan has been doubled.

It is certain that this sympathy of foreign minister of Pakistan and the military government of that country is in complete contradiction with the provisions of Geneva agreements. General Ziaul Haq and his accomplices act as such because the interests of Pakistani militarymen lies in the destabilisation and tension particularly around Afghanistan and the Indian borders. Such a situation gives to Geneva Ziaul Haq the pretexts in order to divert the opinion of the people of Afghanistan from the acute domestic problems.

BAKHTAR on Pakistani Leadership Situation
LD1608095088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 15, BAKHTAR—Junejo's differences have reached a stage that Pakistan Muslim League is faced with fractionation and as a result of strongly-worded criticisms by Junejo, physical clashes have taken place between the advocates of Ziaul Haq and Junejo. The incidence happened at a time when elections were due for the assignment of the leadership and activists of Pakistan Muslim league and Junejo to be reelected as its leader. Mohammad Khan Junejo condemned General Ziaul Haq for boycotting the Muslim League activities.

Long ago before General Ziaul Haq resorted to a second coup d'etat, there were rumours about the existence of differences between Ziaul Haq and his prime minister Mohammad Khan Junejo who is meanwhile the leader of Pakistan Muslim League, the differences which reached its climax in May this year.

Nothing new exists in the assertions made by Ziaul Haq after second coup d'etat. General Ziaul Haq repeated the same accusations which he had levelled eleven years ago against the civilian government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in July 1977 and repeated the same promises which he had given to the Pakistani people after the conduct of his first coup d'etat against Bhutto's government. That is, the holding of elections in ninety days and the return of militarymen to their barracks.

General Ziaul has now once again renewed his promises to Pakistani people and has set November 16 for holding parliamentary elections in provincial assembly on the basis of the participation of non-party candidates. These assertions have caused waves of protests by parties and political parties and political personalities mainly by the opponents of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, MRD.

Anyway, the conflicts and differences within General Ziaul Haq's apparatus as well as the vast differences of the opposition leaders are manifesting the deterioration of the situation.

Religious Leader Calls For Continued Fight
LD1208195888 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 12, IRNA—Qandahar and Bamian in Afghanistan are on the brink of a total fall in the wake of the fierce struggles of Afghan Mujahidin, leader of the Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) party said here today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Asef Muhseni said Mujahidin have so far liberated 85 per cent of the Afghan soil, and demoralized government troops by their continuous blows upon them. He said more and more goverment troops seek asylum with foreign embassies in Kabul.

The Afghan Muslim official said since the government does not trust its own military personnel it has armed security forces of the ruling parties of Khalq (people) and Parcham (flag) and countless number of government employees.

Mohseni said half of the Soviet forces have so far left Afghanistan, however, he called on Mujahidin residing in Iran to keep "the fire of their struggle ablaze."

India

1 Soldier Dead, 8 Injured in 'Terrorist' Attacks

BK1708084188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, one CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] was killed and eight security force personnel were injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, one CRPF jawan was killed and another injured when a patrolling party was ambushed near village Maruwal. Four army jawans were injured when some terrorists fired at army vehicles in Maltoha area. At another incident, three BSF [Border Security Force] jawans were injured when terrorists opened fire at a border post near Sundargarh from the Pakistani side. Terrorists also opened heavy fire with rocket launchers and automatic weapons at the CRPF post near village Roopawali early this morning. They fled when the security forces returned the fire. No loss of life has been reported in this incident.

Further on Attacks

BK1708064488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 17 (AFP)—Sikh militants launched an unprecedented attack on Army troops and opened fire with rockets and sub-machine guns at paramilitary men in Punjab, police said here Wednesday. One trooper was killed and nine wounded in the attacks late Tuesday, which analysts here said were orchestrated and showed that Sikh militants had regrouped to intensify their separatist campaign in the northern state.

Sikh separatists armed with Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles ambushed an Army truck in Bhikiwind town, 55 kilometres (34 miles) from here on the Indo-Pakistan border, wounding five soldiers, four seriously, police said. The soldiers repulsed the attack, police added, but could not say if there were any casualties among the ambushers. It was the first attack on Army soldiers by Sikh militants since they launched a bloody campaign in 1983 for a Sikh nation called Khalistan (land of the pure) in Punjab, a police spokesman said in this Sikh holy city.

In another attack late Tuesday, Sikh militants fired with sub-machine guns and AK-47 rifles from inside Pakistan at Border Security Force (BSF) troopers posted at Sundargarh village, 35 kilometres (21 miles) from here, he said. At least three BSF troopers were wounded in the 30-minute attack on the border outpost, which ended when the border guards fired inside Pakistani territory to repulse the virtually invisible Sikh gunmen, he added.

Sikh militants also ambushed a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrol near Gagubua village, 25 kilometres (15 miles) southwest of here, late Tuesday, killing one trooper and wounding a corporal, police said. Sikh separatists also fired two rockets at a fortified camp of the paramilitary CRPF after midnight Tuesday at Roopawali village, 30 kilometres (18 miles) northwest of here, the spokesman said. No one was injured as the rockets bounced off overhead power cables and exploded inside an empty school, badly damaging the complex, he said. The attackers fled when paramilitary troopers fired back with automatic rifles and light machine-guns, the spokesman said. It was the fourth rocket attack by Sikh militants in Punjab in the last five months.

Analysts here said the attacks appeared orchestrated and showed that Sikh separatists had regrouped to intensify their campaign after a government operation earlier this year had broken the back of the militant leadership. During the operation, codenamed "Black Thunder", federal "Black Cat" commandos killed 34 hardcore militants and forced more than 160 to surrender in a 10-day siege of the Golden Temple here, the holiest Sikh shrine, in May. Punjab state police had said the operation had broken the back of major militant groups like the Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Liberation Force and Bhindranwale Tigers Force. They have since privately admitted however that the militant groups were re-grouping in Punjab's countryside to strike back.

New Delhi says the groups are controlled by the shadowy five-member Sikh Panthic Committee. A committee spokesman, Jagir Singh, was killed and another, Nirvair Singh, was captured in the commando action at the Golden Temple.

In further violence in Punjab late Tuesday, Sikh separatists fired randomly at Hindu-dominated Mainpur village in Amritsar District, killing a woman, a village official and a private guard, police said.

Some 1,714 people have died in violence related to the Sikh separatist campaign so far this year in the Punjab.

70 Policemen Injured in Kashmir Clashes

BK1708090488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says at least 100 people, including 70 policemen, were injured in clashes between the police and a violent mob in downtown Srinagar yesterday. Police resorted to tear gas shelling and lathi [baton] charges to disperse the mob. An official release said the situation is under control.

Special Forces in Bihar To Check Gang Killings

BK1608140688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Special forces will be deployed in Bihar to liquidate the gangs of left-wing extremists responsible for the killings of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, announced this in the Lok Sabha today while intervening in a special discussion on atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He said the killing of 11 people belonging to these communities in two villages of Jahanabad lowers our head in shame. He disclosed that the Bihar government has been asked to formulate a time-bound action plan to deal with such incidents, which is likely to be ready today or tomorrow.

Mr Buta Singh informed the House that the Bihar chief minister was directed by the prime minister to rush to the spot on getting the reports of the killing. Later, the home minister visited the area along with the welfare minister and others for an on-the-spot inquiry. Relief materials were given to the families of the victims, including a grant of 20,000 rupees each. [passage omitted]

2 'Sophisticated' Warships Launched in Calcutta

BK1608162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Two sophisticated warships—"Kirpan" and "Khanjar"—fitted with surface-to-surface missiles, a medium gun, and a radar were launched in Calcutta today. Built by the Gardenreach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited for the Indian Navy at a cost of 90 crore rupees, the ships will be deployed for the protection of offshore assets, particularly oil and gas.

Iran

Reza'i on 'Unprecedented' Dispatch of Volunteers

LD1608172588 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 16 Aug 88

["IRGC Commander Says Acceptance of Resolution Has Born Fruit"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, Aug. 16, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i today described Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution as a "political wall" which blocks plots by enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Reza'i cited "unprecedented" despatch of volunteer forces to the battlefields, routing of members of the outlawed monafeqin (MKO) and exposing the hostility of the Iraqi regime as some results of Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598.

The IRGC commander said that weak countries usually fall victim to the global arrogance, and called for beefing up the country's military.

Larijani Interviewed on Accepting Resolution

NC1608195188 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Aug 88

["First part" of report on interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, by unidentified correspondents on 13 August—place not given]

[Text] Concerning the political background of Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, Dr Larijani stated that this resolution has two aspects: First, a legal aspect which required a commitment by the two parties, and second, a political aspect which was studied and approved during a special period with a special background. He said: We announced our stand frankly from the outset. We did not reject the resolution; in fact, we cooperated with the UN secretary general to prepare a plan for its implementation. The plan was prepared 8 months ago, and we formally accepted it at that time. The UN Security Council also approved it. We now have a resolution and a plan for its implementation. Both have been approved by the UN Security Council. He added that from the outset doubts have revolved around Iraq's position on the resolution and the plan of implementation. However, when we accepted the plan for implementation 8 months ago, we revealed that we had a special and calculated policy with regard to the region and the war.

He continued: The war imposed on the Islamic Republic broke out, according to all appearances, when the two countries clashed. In fact, however, this war created an international crisis, threatened good relations in the region, and threatened to involve other countries and become an international war. For this reason we realized that it was in the interest of both the Iraqi and Iranian people, as well as all of the peoples of the region, to extinguish this fire at whatever cost. This was particularly true after we perceived that the big powers were pouring oil on the fire in an attempt to find new benefits for themselves. All of this provided us with the political background which led us to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and made us take courageous steps to implement peace.

On Iran's timing of its acceptance of the resolution and why it did not accept it 1 year or 8 months ago, Larijani said: When the plan to carry out the resolution was approved, no one made any strong efforts to implement it. The United States also was preparing to boycott Iran, by preventing arms supply to it, and exert international pressure on the Islamic Republic. The other powers, meanwhile, were seeking to attain other objectives. After a while, these powers realized that they were unable to achieve anything against Iran. Other powers also realized that it was futile to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic through UN Security Council Resolution No 598. For this reason, had we accepted the resolution earlier, no one would have made a move to implement it, although some parties were exploiting the resolution against Iran.

He asserted: We accepted the resolution at the appropriate time and period, when all the prerequisites for its implementation became available.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Future of Iraqi Refugees
LD1608164688 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 16, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim and SAIRI spokesman Hojjat ol- Eslam Mahmud Hashemi met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were issues relevant to Iraqi refugees in Iran.

The acting commander-in-chief of the armed forces promised that after the war all Iraqi refugees will be treated like Iranians and will be free to return to their homeland or go to any other place in the world.

Iraqi Fighting Against Kurds Intensifies
LD1708092888 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] London Aug 17, IRNA—Fighting is reportedly intensifying between government troops and Kurdish guerrillas in Mirgah Sur and Rawanduz of Iraq as Saddam Husayn is seen trying to take advantage of the cease-fire with Iran for eradicating dissident forces.

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) said Tuesday that the Iraqi Army was continuing its attacks to break liberated Kurdish positions in Lolan and in the Ari mountains near the Iranian and Turkish borders but had been halted and counterattacked.

Massive support of aircraft, helicopter gunships, tanks and chemical weapons had again been used in government's campaign of extermination against the Kurds that has been stepped up since Iran agreed to accept U.N. Resolution 598 to end the Iraqi war.

In a statement also released to IRNA, the KDP reported 54 guerrilla casualties, mainly by poison gas attacks and, leader Mas'ud Barzani once again appealed as Kurds were seeking refuge in Iran for the international community to intervene.

The London TIMES suggested Tuesday that Saddam may be moving towards some kind of deal with the Kurds who continue to cause acute problems for his regime that could intensify after peace.

The paper said that Iraq had been pressured by Moscow, its main arms supplier, to offer its own peace talks with a coalition of dissident Kurds and had already approached former leader of the Communist Party of Iraq Mukarram Talabani.

Talabani is a cousin of leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talabani and is thought to have used his links with the Baghdad regime in recent talks in London.

Kurdish sources in London neither deny nor confirm the approach but THE TIMES quoted a PUK spokesman saying the offer was simply for talks and was "not optimistic" about their outcome.

"We fear that they (the Iraqis) want us to lay down our arms in return for mere amnesty rather than the recognition of our rights," he said.

Over the past few years, Kurdish guerrillas have liberated whole areas of northern Iraq in their campaign against Ba'thist party rule from Baghdad but in return have faced mass repression, genocide and dislocation from a regime that has shown it has no respect for human rights.

PRC Official Calls For Expanding Ties
LD1708081188 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Qi Huaiyuan conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday afternoon.

Qi who arrived here Tuesday heading a delegation said that his country supports the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on Iraq-Iran war, and hailed Iran for having accepted it.

The Chinese official also expressed the interest of his government in expansion of Tehran-Beijing relations.

Velayati said that the reason for Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution is its commitment to a lasting peace. He told the Chinese official that Iran had closely cooperated with the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, for working out problems while the Iraqi Government had tried to undermine Iran's efforts.

Both sides stressed the importance of further promotion of Tehran-Beijing relations.

The Chinese official also held first round of talks with Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia-Oceania Javad Mansuri Tuesday afternoon; their discussions concentrated on ways for strengthening bilateral ties and promotion of economic cooperation, and major regional issues.

Khamene'i Messages Given in Ecuador, Argentina

LD1608204288 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Iran's high presidential adviser Mustafa Mir-Salim Tuesday flew back home after submitting a message to Ecuador's new president Rodrigo Borja from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i.

Mir-Salim headed a delegation participated in Borja's oath-taking ceremony in Quito on Friday.

Mir-Salim also presented a message from Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i to Argentine president who had attended the ceremony.

President Khamene'i's messages called on Ecuador's and Argentina's cooperation with the U.N. and Iran for better implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Mo'ayeri Reports on Visit to Algeria

LD1608130888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Mr 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, the deputy prime minister of political affairs, who travelled to Algeria in order to convey a message from President Khamene'i to Mr Chadli Bendjedid, returned to Tehran this morning. Upon his arrival in Tehran, Mr Mo'ayeri said: During this visit the message of our country's president was conveyed to the Algerian president, and I held talks with Algerian officials about the two countries' relations. He said: During this visit the Algerian president was invited to visit Iran, and he welcomed this invitation. The prime minister's political affairs deputy, pointing out the cultural and political similarities between Iran and Algeria, said: These harmonies and similarities are suitable means for expanding the field of cooperation between the two countries on regional and global levels.

Troop Convoy Departs for Battlefronts

LD1608195188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon the second convoy of the Vanguards of Moharram [talayeh-daran-e moharram] departed from Hamadan to the fronts in the path of the popular movement to safeguard the Islamic homeland. According to a report by IRNA, this convoy is composed of a large number of trained, volunteer forces, and also renewed dispatch forces to the fronts from the cities and districts of Hamadan, Nahavand, Tuysarkan, Malayer, Darvand, Ahmadabad, Shareh, Kabudarahang, Bahar, Khamenin, Sedeh, and Samen.

The convoy left amid an enthusiastic sendoff from the inhabitants of Hamadan. Also, this afternoon a number of preachers and artists, who have been organized in the publicity and cultural convoy of the Islamic Publicity Organization, left Tehran for the borders of the country after a ceremony.

Pakistan

President, U.S. Ambassador Die in Plane Accident

BK1708152888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Government of Pakistan has announced with profound grief and sorrow that President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq died in a plane accident this afternoon [17 August].

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had gone on a brief visit to Bahawalpur where he inspected military unit areas. On return, his C-130 plane took off from Bahawalpur Airport.

Soon after the takeoff, the plane exploded in the air. According to information received so far, no passengers on board the plane with the president escaped alive.

Those who had gone with the president include General Akhtar Abdur Rahman, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee; Lieutenant General Mohammad Afzal, Army chief of general staff; some other senior military officers, and U.S. Ambassador Raphel. An immediate inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The Senate chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has assumed the responsibilities of the president. An emergency meeting of the federal cabinet is being held at the Rawalpindi Presidency under the chairmanship of Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The federal ministers and three Armed Forces chiefs are attending the meeting.

The government has announced a 10-day mourning over the death of President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan will address the nation over radio and television tonight. [no time given] [passage omitted on biography of President Ziaul Haq]

Possible Mid-Air Collision

TA1708153288 BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Reports are coming in that the president of Pakistan, Ziaul Haq, was in an aircraft that crashed while taking [off] to view military exercises. Details at this stage are limited but George Arney sent us this report from Islamabad a few moments ago.

[Begin recording] The rumor that the president's aircraft has crashed is all over Pakistan. There has been no official announcement yet.

But a spokesman for the American Embassy in Islamabad told me that the embassy had been informed by the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the president's aircraft has crashed. The U.S. Embassy has been informed because the American ambassador, Mr Arnold Raphel, was traveling with the president.

They had gone to [name indistinct] together this morning to watch the military exercises. However, the embassy spokesman said that he had no information about casualties.

It is not known who else was in the president's entourage but several aircraft were involved in the visit.

According to unconfirmed reports, the president's aircraft may have been involved in a mid-air collision. Local reporters in Bahawalpur say that an area about 4 miles from the city has been cordoned off by the Army and journalists aren't being allowed through. Government ministers in Islamabad are not available for comment. They are reported to have been summoned to an emergency meeting. The chief minister of the Frontier Province, General Fazli Hank, has also left Peshawar for Islamabad canceling all his engagements. [end recording]

Soviet Pilot Handed Over to USSR Embassy

BK1608163288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan this evening handed over the pilot of Soviet SU-25 aircraft to the charge d' affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad. The Soviet aircraft was shot down by a PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft on the 4th of this month in Miran Shah area, 22 km inside Pakistan's territory, and the pilot had ejected safely. He was recovered by tribesmen of North Waziristan Agency and handed over to Pakistan authorities.

The Pakistan foreign secretary told a news conference in Islamabad this evening that the Government of Pakistan decided to hand over the pilot to the Soviet Embassy in consistence with its policy of seeking cordial and cooperative relations with the Soviet Union and as a token of goodwill. He said it continues to be our policy to hand over to the Soviet side any Soviet personnel found on the territory of Pakistan. The foreign secretary said a representative of the United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] witnessed the handing over.

Giving details of the Soviet SU-25 combat aircraft, he said it had Soviet markings and was fully armed and equipped with cluster bombs. The foreign secretary said the 4th of August incident took place during Pakistan foreign minister's visit to Moscow, during which the Soviet side repeatedly accused Pakistan of violating the Geneva accords. These charges were categorically rejected by Pakistan. He said the UN secretary general, Security Council, and the UN General Assembly have been informed and a complaint lodged to the United Nations Good Offices Mission.

In reply to a question, the foreign secretary said Kabul regime lodged seven complaints with the UNGOMAP against Pakistan for the violation of Geneva accords. But, he said, all these complaints were found baseless by the UN team.

Bomb Explodes in Dera Ismail Khan; 4 Dead

BK1608140488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] A plastic bomb went off in Dera Ismail Khan this morning. One person died on the spot, while three other victims breathed their last in district headquarters hospital. An inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

Government Considering Non-Party Election Law

BK1608142588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, has said the constitutional position of the political parties and the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution would not be affected by the law about the non-party elections. The law is now under consideration of the government.

He was talking to newsmen in Lahore today after meeting the president of the Lahore High Court Bar Association and other lawyers. He said the purpose of the law is to ensure that elections were held in an orderly manner in accordance with the Constitution. Replying to a question, he said election law would be ready before the election schedule is announced.

Referring to the setting up of Qadi courts, the minister for justice said the law in this regard is now being examined by the Council of Islamic Ideology.